

No 61,621

TOMORROW

Easy glider... Ronald Faux looks at the new emphasis on safety in hang-gliding.

On the road... A journey that rediscovers the splendours of old Syria.

With a backpack... How to make light work of a long walk.

Wheeling... The second part of the competition with a Ford Sierra XR4i as first prize.

Dealing... The writer in Stalin's pocket: the extraordinary story of Soviet apologist Alexei Tolstoy.

Revealing... The costs of differential mortgages, in which interest charges are higher for bigger borrowers.

Social work to open its records

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in a move which overturns decades of social work practice.

Spain by-passes Maltese tactics

Spain is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to meet in Madrid next month, despite Malta's obstructionist tactics.

Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have refused their acceptance of the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BFCC shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control.

Walesa chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdansk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies.

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drum, of Provisional Sinn Fein, in hospital, seven years ago.

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese.

Trudeau in peril

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is facing a clamour from his Liberal Party backbenchers for his resignation.

Scientific talks

The meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on page 2.

Football trio

Scotland want to invite a leading world football country to take part in a three-cornered tournament with England to replace the Home Championship, which is being discontinued.

British gold

Adrian Moorhouse, aged 19, won Britain's first gold medal in the European swimming championships at Rome in the 100 metres breaststroke.

Leader page 9

On the Liberals, from Mr M Meadocroft, MP, and Lord Beaumont of Whitley; university research, from Professor J M Thomas, FRS.

Reading articles

Mitterrand and Chad; Prisoners in foreign jails; BA goes to law; features, pages 6-8; Making sense of the crime figures; Pakistan's simmering province; images to impress the voter; Spectator: the condition of American blacks; Friday page: what children really think of their holidays; Obituary, page 10; Mr J Cleveland Bell.

Table with 2 columns: Page, Topic. Includes Home News, Overseas, Sports, Arts, Business, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary, Motoring, Science, Smart, TV & Radio, Theatre, Weather, Wills.

Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-expected challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over economic collieries. In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynllw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.



Ian Botham hitting a six on his way to his first century for England in 22 innings. Report page 16. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Thatcher sees Alliance threat

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has changed her view about the future of the Labour Party, with a clear suggestion that she now sees the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance as "the true opposition" to the Conservative Party. During the election campaign on June 3, Mrs Thatcher said: "The Labour Party will not die. The Labour Party will never die. If you want a good opposition you have got to reform the Labour Party, as Gaitskell was trying to do, to take away the state socialism."

Union poll reveals massive support for secret ballots

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's assertions that its proposed trade union law reforms have the backing of rank and file union members received significant support yesterday from an internal union poll which showed that an overwhelming number of members supported the introduction of secret ballots for strike votes and the election of executives. The survey of members of the TUC-affiliated Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) is likely to prove an embarrassment to the union movement's campaign against the latest union curbs proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Hissene Habre's forces, President Mitterrand stated yesterday. While insisting that France wants a negotiated settlement, he confirmed his total opposition to any settlement involving the partition of Chad. However, he left deliberately unclear what France's response would be to any attempt by President Habre to recapture the key town of Faya-Largeau in the Libyan-occupied northern half of the country.

Cup yacht designer may sue

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of the controversial Royal Perth Yacht Club challenger for the America's Cup, Australia II, is considering legal action against the New York Yacht Club, defenders of the trophy. In the latest hostilities caused by the New York Yacht Club's repeated attempts to discredit the Australian boat, Mr Warren Jones, executive director for the Australia II syndicate, yesterday revealed that the New York club's agents tried to persuade a Dutch boatyard official to sign an affidavit swearing incorrectly that Australia II was not designed by Mr Lexcen.

350 jailed Britons may be sent home

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first step towards transferring to British jails hundreds of Britons held in foreign prisons was taken by the Government yesterday when Mr Christopher Lush, Britain's Ambassador to the Council of Europe, signed in Strasbourg the Council's convention on the repatriation of prisoners. The Government now proposes to introduce legislation as soon as possible to ratify the convention. Thirteen other countries have signed including Canada and the United States. Another signatory is Spain where 70 prisoners are on the case-load of the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad. Britain intends to make bilateral agreements with other countries. The council estimates that about 1,000 British subjects are imprisoned abroad for criminal offences. According to official British estimates there are 350 British subjects eligible for transfer from countries which have already signed the convention.

Oil drum raft's skipper saved by Spanish ship

By Richard Evans

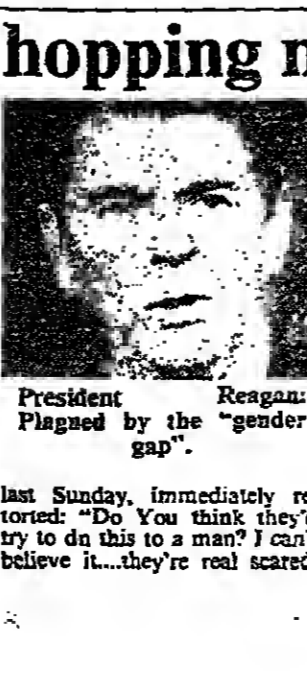
Gunther Mieser, the madcap German seafarer given up for dead after his empty oil drum raft, complete with bicycle, was found in the Bay of Biscay last weekend, is safe and well. The lone sailor, who was sighted off Devon earlier this month during his bid to sail from Germany to Portugal, had been picked up by a Spanish ship, the Jata Mendil. His weird craft - called Das Ding (The Thing) - consisted of bits of wood, metal and oil drums lashed together, with a bicycle tied to the makeshift deck.

American women hopping mad at bunny gibe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

House spokesmen, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honegger has when she has dressed up as an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll. In an attempt to be funny which left many White House reporters grinning, he added: "It was quite an admirable thing to do. It is not easy to dress up in that hot bunny suit. I've never done it, and I'm sort of ashamed to admit it." Miss Honegger, who has become something of a folk hero among women's groups since her critique on the Administration's record on women's rights. In what would appear to be an attempt to discredit Miss Honegger, who headed a task force looking into sexually discriminating legislation, government spokesmen have referred to her as a "low-level munchkin" and an "Easter bunny". Mr Larry Speakes, the White

Advertisement for Bell's Scotch Whisky. Features a bottle of whisky and the text: 'Follow the Leader the quality scotch'. Includes the Arthur Bell & Sons logo and 'ESTABLISHED 1825 AND STILL AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY'.



President Reagan: Plagued by the "gender gap"

not of what I have done but of what they have not done." Ever since he came to office President Reagan has been plagued by the "gender gap". A recent poll showed that his approval rating among women has slumped to only 34 per cent compared with 51 per cent among men. As there are substantially more women of voting age than there are men, this gap could have serious implications for the President if he decides to seek a second term. Unemployment and cuts in social benefits have fallen more heavily on women than men. Many are alarmed by his "macho" image on defence and nuclear weapons issues. His stand on abortion and the equal rights amendment has also caused widespread alienation. Earlier this month he told a conference of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women: "I happen to be one who believes if it wasn't for women, us men would still be walking around in skin suits, carrying clubs." The women found the remark offensive because it implied that a woman's role was at home supporting a man. A big campaign is being prepared to demonstrate the President's commitment to sexual equality. This could include a "mea culpa" speech and apologise to try harder in the months ahead.

### Task force sails into dispute

The Royal Navy will be left with only eight frigates and destroyers to guard Britain's approaches to the North Atlantic when a task force leaves for New Zealand next week, it was claimed last night.

The claim, in a Press Association report, was queried however, by senior naval sources.

The aircraft carrier Invincible will lead a destroyer, five frigates and five supply vessels on a deployment which will last until next spring.

The report quotes "authoritative sources" as describing the absence as "calculated risk". It adds that 12 more warships are committed to Falkland Islands duties, three are in the Caribbean and one is in the Gulf.

Official sources added last night that the deployment had been authorized only after consultation with Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia.

### Flagpole tied up in red tape

Villagers in Sadberge, Co Durham, have been given permission to put a flagpole on their village green to celebrate the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales - more than two years late.

The parish, near Darlington, blames bureaucracy for the delay. The flagpole needed special authority because it is to be put in a conservation area. Darlington Borough Council still has to give planning approval for the scheme but the flagpole may be up next year.

### Cable TV firm plans arts show

A daily four-hour television arts programme is being compiled for cable television operators by British Cable Programmes, which expects to inject £2m a year in fee payments into British music and drama.

The Government has invited applications for 12 pilot multi-channel cable television franchises.

### Thatcher to join world phone-in

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will become the first national leader to take part in a world-wide radio phone-in this autumn when she answers questions for 50 minutes from listeners to the BBC World Service.

## Strike at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant halts production

A strike by 1,800 assembly workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port car factory in Mersey side brought production to a standstill yesterday.

The men are believed to have taken their action after instructions from Coventry, where negotiators from the Transport and General Worker's Union are discussing the company's annual pay claim, with the management.

All car assembly work at the factory was brought to a halt, although the remainder of the 5,150 employees at the factory remained at their posts.

The men on strike are demanding a £25 wage increase across the board, a reduction in working hours, increased overtime payments and improved sickness and holiday benefits.

The Ellesmere Port factory normally produces 38 vehicles an hour, 20 Astra cars, ten Astra vans and eight Chevettes.

A week-long strike by 1,300 boilermakers at Cammell Laird shipbuilders in Birkenhead Merseyside, ended yesterday

afternoon. The men had walked out in a dispute over work being brought into the shipyard from an outside contractor. They took strike action after 40 of their colleagues lost their pay for refusing to handle welded steel units supplied from outside.

The boilermakers, members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, decided to accept a peace document produced after a week of negotiation with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The men have agreed to put the 40 men back on full pay, and according to a union official, the firm has conceded that it was wrong to use outside contractors without consultation.

Negotiations are to continue on the question of the men's pay since the management took action against them.

The ending of the strike will renew the yard's hopes of winning a Royal Navy order for a Type 22 destroyer. Failure to

win new contracts by next spring could mean 1,400 redundancies as part of British Shipbuilders' cuts across the industry.

Cammell Laird's managing director, Mr Alistair Lamb, said that the boilermakers' decision to go back was vital to the yard's future.

"It was an unnecessary dispute, but the men made a very necessary decision for the survival interests of the yard. It must be welcomed that the men have recognized that," he said.

Shipyard workers who brought work on a Royal Navy destroyer to a standstill on Wednesday agreed to return to work "under protest" after a mass meeting yesterday.

About 270 semi-skilled men had walked out at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard on the Tyne in a dispute over redundancies and the stoppage spread to the rest of the workforce.

A Swan Hunter spokesman said he was optimistic that the issue could be resolved.

### Dismissed journalists wait on talks

Three hundred journalists in Manchester, dismissed by Express Newspapers over a Christmas working disagreement were last night awaiting the outcome of negotiations in London between the management and officials of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The journalists work on the Daily Star, the northern editions of the Daily Express and the Scottish Sunday Express.

They had refused to leave a mandatory union meeting on Wednesday at which they narrowly rejected a management offer to "buy out" their right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. About half the members were at the meeting when they learnt that all journalists working for Express Newspapers in Manchester had been dismissed.

The union said last night that it had accepted part of a pay deal amounting to about 5 per cent but refused to give up the right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for a £250 jump sum.

### Wary union support for youth scheme

The Government is assured of continued trade union support for the controversial £1,000m Youth Training Scheme (YTS) after the publication today of a TUC guide which urges cooperation.

TUC commitment to the scheme will be questioned at the annual congress in Blackpool early next month, but unions are expected to give their support, with some qualifications, and will continue to press for improvements.

The guidelines were seen by opponents of the YTS as an attempt to undermine opposition at Blackpool, but most of the attention during the training debate will be focused on ways of ensuring that youngsters on the scheme receive the highest possible allowance, and join unions.

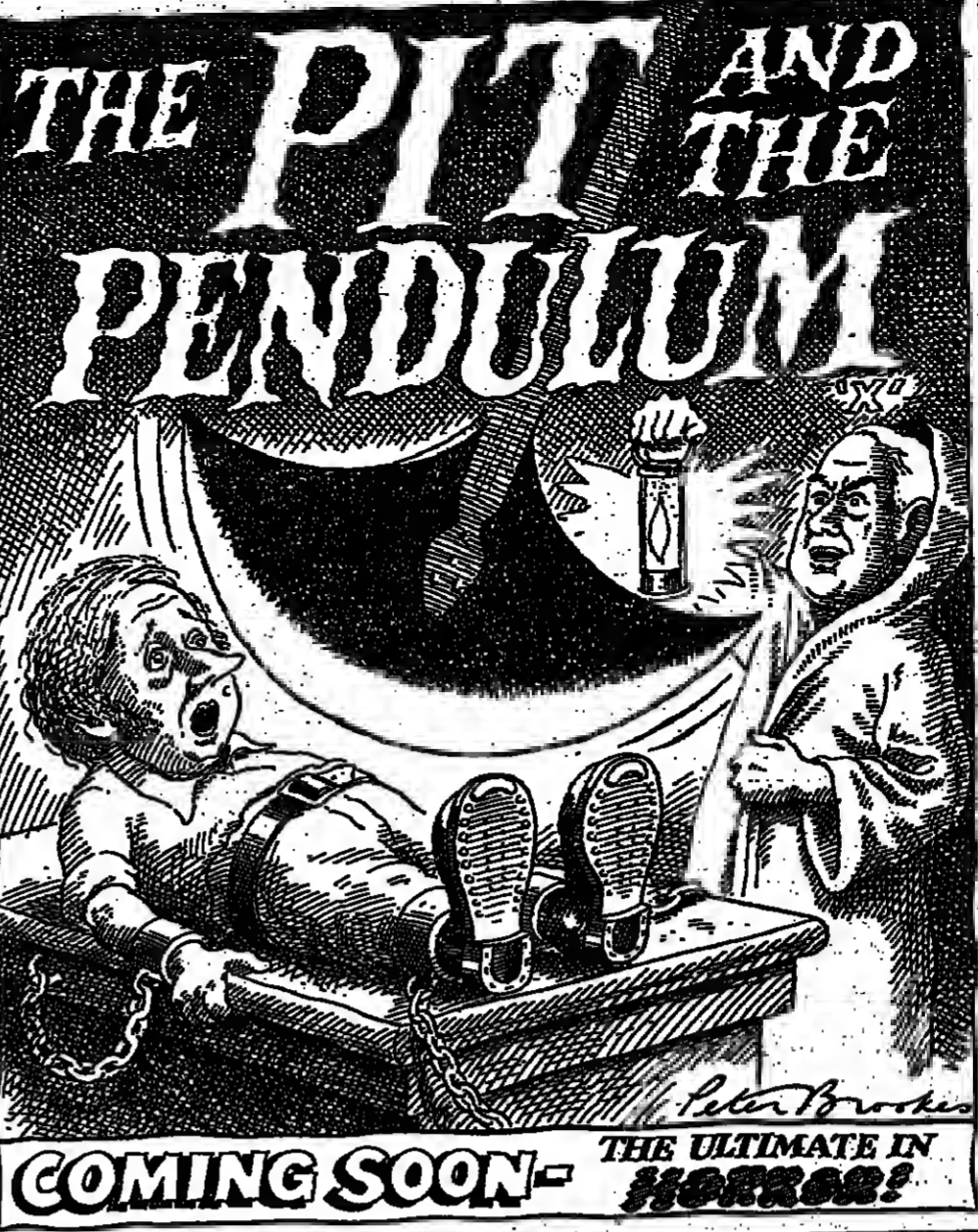
The Manpower Service Commission has promised places on the scheme by Christmas to all unemployed school leavers aged 16. Each trainee will receive a £25 a week allowance for the year's vocational training.

Launching the guidelines, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the scheme would help young people towards a career, but some employers might try to exploit it financially and others might not have the necessary training expertise.

A meeting of leaders of 14 unions which have either motions or amendments on YTS on the Blackpool agenda has failed to reach an all-embracing motion for the Congress, so delegates will have to choose between one motion critical of the principle of the scheme and a second supporting it with qualifications.

The National Graphical Association wants the TUC to reconsider its support for the scheme because it claims it is being used by the Government to create "a pool of cheap labour". The alternative motion, sponsored chiefly by teachers' organizations calls for stronger union participation and local monitoring of schemes.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has resisted union pressure to increase the weekly allowance to £26.75 in line with an MSC recommendation.



### COMING SOON - THE ULTIMATE IN HORROR!

### Court to hear BA appeal for shuttle ruling

British Airways' High Court application for a ruling on British Midland Airways' plan to operate a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast is expected to be heard today.

BA hopes to prevent its independent rival from competing on the route, after the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant British Midland a licence.

If the application succeeds the hearing is expected to be held in October, probably in open court. The case will challenge the CAA's interpretation of the Civil Aviation Act, 1980, in granting British Midland a licence.

Behind the legal move lies the independent airline's recent success in capturing a third of the shuttle traffic to Scotland from BA.

### Meacher puts case for minimum wage

Mr Michael Meacher yesterday abandoned his conciliatory tone in Labour's deputy leadership contest and said his rival, Mr Roy Hattersley, had resorted to a 10-year-old idea by advocating an index of poverty.

He said: "There is nothing wrong with the idea. The problem is mobilizing the political support to do something about it."

Mr Meacher, who has campaigned against low pay was speaking at a London meeting organized by the Low Pay Unit, the Fabian Society and the National Union of Public Employees, which is backing members with an executive recommendation to support him.

He said the only solution to low pay was a national minimum wage. Well before the next election the Labour Party and the trade unions should be committed to a minimum wage of about two thirds of male average gross earnings.

It might raise the retail price index by about 6 per cent, but such an increase, brought in over two or three years, was a reasonable price to pay.

Meanwhile Labour supporters are being urged by Mr Wedgwood Benn to take an interest in "the many Socialist groups that have appeared on the scene."

Mr Benn writes in the Labour magazine, *New Socialist*: "Though the direct affiliation to the Labour Party of such groups or sects would enlarge our own perception and contribute directly to our policy-making, we have to accept that even if they remain autonomous they may have many common interests with us."

### UDA man accused of hospital murder

Two leading members of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were arrested by detectives yesterday as a one-time member of the Protestant paramilitary organization was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, aged 56, the former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Fein, seven years ago.

Mrs Drumm was shot dead in 1976 while in hospital, recovering from an eye operation.

Andrew Tyrre, commander of the UDA, with John McMichael, chairman of the organization's political wing, and two others, were being questioned at Castlereagh holding centre under the province's anti-terrorist laws after being held in dawn raids.

Under emergency legislation police can hold the four people for up to seven days before either charging them or setting them free.

Hours after the arrests UDA sources alleged that Stanley Smith, aged 23, who is accused of murdering Mrs Drumm, had become an informer. His parents and married sister moved from their home in north Belfast to new addresses early yesterday with police in attendance to prevent any trouble.

The RUC deny they have been taken into police protective custody, but by moving the family seem to fear retaliation by extreme loyalist paramilitaries, who in the past have planted small bombs and fired shots at the homes of relatives of alleged informers.

Mr Tyrre, aged 42, is at present on bail charged with conspiring to possess information likely to be of use to terrorists. He was arrested at his home.

At the same time, Mr McMichael, aged 35, who stood for the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party in the Belfast South by-election last year, went with police from his home in Lisburn.

At Belfast Magistrates Court, Mr Smith, from the Crumlin Road area, was accused of the murder of Mrs Drumm. He faces 11 other terrorist charges, including possession of a gun and ammunition but those were not put to him at the preliminary hearing.

When charged Mr Smith, who was 16 at the time of the murder, had nothing to say. After a lawyer for the defence solicited a match better balance case to answer he was sent for trial to Belfast Crown Court.

### Spending on research up despite recession

Industry has increased its expenditure on research and development during the past five years, in spite of the economic recession, according to a survey of research and development in Britain.

The finding that companies have not cut back on research in response to hard times is a surprising contrast both to their behaviour during the first half of the 1970s when research and development in industry fell by 11 per cent, and to recent talk of declining industrial research.

The survey was carried out by the Technical Change Centre (TCC) in London for the British Association.

"The mood of pessimism about industrial research and development has been excessive", Mr Ted Butler and Sir Bruce Williams of the TCC reported last night when they presented the first results of their science audit. Their figures are more recent than the official statistics on research and development which, they said, were inadequate and published very late.

The TCC's main source of information on research in industry was the Department of Trade and Industry, which made available preliminary results of its 1981 survey on the subject. Those have not been published by the Government because the results have not yet been analysed.

Industry spent 63.5 per cent more on research and development in 1981 than in 1976, the year of the last published official survey. In that time research costs are estimated to have risen by 55 per cent, leaving a real increase in spending of about 5 per cent.

The TCC team is also investigating university research and development where it has found that "the amount of information about research expenditure is pathetically small and late in its publication".

### Spotlight on leopards

## Defence policy 'based on myth of Soviet threat'

Britain's nuclear defence policy is based on a series of myths and false perceptions, according to evidence presented to the BA meeting yesterday by an expert in peace and conflict research.

The "Soviet threat" has become an important justification for the British nuclear deterrent. Yet, according to Dr Paul Smoker, of Lancaster University, independent studies of Soviet and Western interventions in wars and conflicts since the Second World War show "that if the Soviet threat is cause for concern then the Western threat is at least ten times more serious".

One study showed that the Western countries intervened in 64 wars between 1945 and 1976, while the Soviet Union and its allies took part in six. (Only direct military intervention was counted, not arms sales, technical or political assistance or technology transfer.)

A different analysis cited by Dr Smoker looked at foreign intervention in 641 post-war conflicts (defined more broadly this time to include coups and large civil disturbances as well as wars). Western nations intervened on 243 occasions and the Communist countries, including North Vietnam, Cuba, China and the Warsaw Pact nations, only on 20.

"Of course it can be argued that the Soviet threat manifests itself in other ways such as arms sales, training of military personnel and spying, and there is probably some truth in this assertion", Dr Smoker said.

"It is almost certainly the case that similar activities by Western nations also constitute a component of the Western threat and that comparative studies of the relative use of such procedures would not necessarily find the Soviet threat to be greater".

Dr Smoker, who is at the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research at Lancaster, challenged the related assumption that the nuclear deterrent is responsible for the very low level of warfare in Europe and the absence of a great power war.

Historical evidence showed that important wars in Europe, and between great powers, have been occurring with steadily decreasing frequency over the past 400 years, though when one does happen it is increasingly destructive. According to that trend, Dr Smoker argued,

How did the Earth obtain its iron-rich core? The traditional view that at an early stage of formation dense molten blobs of iron simply sank to the centre of the planet was challenged yesterday by Professor William McCrea, of the Astronomy Centre at Sussex University.

Professor McCrea regards the conventional wisdom about the Earth's core as too convenient an explanation without much supporting evidence.

It means believing that some very unusual conditions prevailed at one stage in the early part of the creation of the planet, whereby just the iron mineral was completed in its formation and, effectively all of it was able to sink together to the centre of the Earth.

He is dissatisfied with that theory for several reasons. It means that the Earth has to have come from an interstellar gas cloud, consisting mostly of hydrogen and helium, but containing enough other materials to form the Earth, by collapsing into a planet-size body.

Such a "primordial" cloud would have had a radius of one fifth of the Earth's sun distance, and, he says, that mass would have been very reluctant to collapse under its own gravity.

### Planet of iron



Finding out: A girl examines air and water with a jar in a fish tank. The British Association is starting a campaign to interest primary school children in science, including an awards scheme (Photograph: David Hodge).

### Beating drum for ear trumpet

## Ear trumpet 'still effective hearing aid'

The old-fashioned ear trumpet is still one of the most effective aids for the hard of hearing, Mr Michael Martin, head of the scientific and technical department of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said yesterday.

Outlining progress in better electronic aids, he said that the disability often was not one of hearing what was said, but of not understanding speech, even though it was loud enough.

Significant developments in hearing aids were "few and far between".

In spite of intense research, the conventional hearing aid was still the only viable device generally available.

Medical research groups working on better designs for artificial arms and electronically-controlled hands faced a hurdle which was not, strictly speaking, a scientific one, Dr Ian Fletcher, senior medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security's limb fitting centre in Roehampton, south-west London, told the meeting.

### The finer art of forecasting

The Meteorological Office is developing a system for forecasting rainfall with far more local detail than has been possible before, combining satellite and radar observations with high-speed communications and computing.

The system called Frontiers - standing for Forecasting Rain Optimised using New Techniques of Interactive Enhanced Radar and Satellite - is beginning pre-operational trials

influence of the magnetic field of the Sun, forming near by, and thereby being attracted to each other to produce a massive core, with a gravitational pull strong enough to attract the remaining grains not magnetized, to form the outer mantle of the planet.

Another established theory to come under fire concerned the origins of comets, which have been believed to have come from a belt outside the solar system.

Dr Mark Bailey, of Sussex University, suggests another idea is that there is a swarm of comets much closer to the Sun, and that they are responsible for pulling the outer planets slightly out of position.

With comets so close, there would be no need to search for the tenth planet, which has long been thought to exist, to account for the irregularities in calculation.

### Module approaches to teaching mathematics

A complete rethink of what is taught in schools and how was advocated yesterday by Mr Bob Aitken, director of education in Coventry, in a speech to the education section in which he said the curriculum should be organized into modules or units rather than subjects.

Mathematics could be divided into some units concerned with the mathematics of everyday life, some units that were required for industry and commerce, and some units as a preparation for more advanced courses.

Mr Aitken said: "At 14 a student might do only the 'everyday life' units but the important feature of the system is that at any stage he could progress by adding further units." Such a system would cut across the school/further education divide and would mean that education would no longer have to be provided in an institution.

There would have to be discussion about how long a unit should be but a convenient length might be 25 hours' teaching time, organized into five school periods each week or one week's continuous work.

Mr Aitken said that the present curriculum was not constructed to meet the educational aims considered desirable today. "An advantage of the proposed modular system is that it would allow a student to achieve a much better balance without offending against the integrity of subjects."

"It would probably lead to much tighter teaching since the learning objectives of each module would need to be specified, and it would facilitate change", he added.

Mr Chris Hayes, associate fellow at the Institute of Manpower Studies in London, told the section that secondary education had betrayed and disabled young people because it only met the needs of a minority.

"In its own terms it sends nearly half of all pupils into the real world marked by failure, without confidence or the skills necessary for a successful adult life."

In addition, most of the employment given to 16-year-olds was degrading and dehumanising and stifled their self-development, he said. Industrial training is the handmaiden of this process, training people to perform tasks which exclude initiative and independent thought."

### How to get the measure of a leopard's spots

In spite of decades of observations of wildlife and squinting through microscopes, biologists cannot say how the leopard gets its spots, or, for that matter, the other its stripes, the giraffe its mottled pattern, or the butterfly the markings on its wings.

The question is a scientific minefield, but one into which Dr James Murray, of Oxford University, stepped yesterday.

He proposed a mechanism for the formation of those marks, which give some creatures an added beauty. Yet Dr Murray is not a biologist by first training; he is a mathematician, albeit one whose discoveries have been applied in medical research and other fields of biosciences.

His address was an illustration of how findings in the exciting and fast-growing subject of mathematical biology are being used to prise open doors to paths of investigation into areas of ignorance.

So, how does the leopard get its spots? Dr Murray's mathematical answer boils down to a

سكرا من الاصل



East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

The disruptive tactics of the Maltese Government reached their nadir yesterday, visibly angering the heads of all the other delegations. The delegates, who had flown in from their capitals hoping Malta would finally relent, found themselves confronted by a Maltese junior diplomat who simply told them he had no instructions.

Joerg Kasl, of West Germany, described the delegates' tactics. Two of the largest available ensaimadas, the typical wheel-shaped sweet cakes from Majorca, were taken in for snacks to underline their will to sit it out. Several emerged to express barely diplomatic views over Malta's wisdom in alienating any remaining disposition to negotiate a compromise over its demands.



Seven killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi (AP) Seven people - four West Germans, two Italians and a Dutch national - were killed when their small aircraft crashed in the Jogito Hills near the Tanzanian border, about 85 miles south of here.

Rain caused school tragedy

Taipei (Reuters) - A provisional education commissioner has offered to resign after 27 girls were killed and 84 injured when a school ceiling collapsed at Feng Yuan near here.

Baby expelled

Rome (AP) - Italy has expelled a two-month-old Venezuelan girl who spent seven days in a Rome airport transit lounge after a legal tangle over her adoption. She was put on board a flight for Caracas, accompanied by a childless Sicilian couple who had brought her in Rome last week.

Bride's suicide

Delhi (AFP) - A teenage bride burnt herself to death, saying that her in-laws had refused her food as part of pressure tactics to force her father to increase her dowry. It was the latest in a long series of "dowry deaths."

Hijack appeal

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors are appealing for heavier sentences on six Chinese given six years for hijacking a Chinese airliner to Seoul in May. China has said the sentences are too lenient.

Colombo visitor

Colombo - Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday for discussions with President Jayewardene after the recent attacks on Tamils.

Burma riot

Rangoon (AP) - Muslims' houses, shops and mosques were destroyed in Yandooon, 50 miles east of the Burmese capital, after a quarrel between a Muslim medicine vendor and his Buddhist customers.

Hit reprieved

Pretoria (AFP) - A ten-year ban on the film and soundtrack of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical hit, Jesus Christ Superstar, has been lifted by the South African censors.

Train deaths

Bangkok (AFP) - Eight people were killed and nine seriously injured in a train crash near Chumphon, 275 miles south of here.

Factory blast

Rome (AFP) - An explosion destroyed a fireworks factory in Borgorose, 60 miles north of here, killing five people. A sixth person was reported missing.

China in space

Peking (Reuters) - An experimental Chinese satellite has returned to Earth after a successful five-day mission.

Leg appeal

Peking (Reuters) - A Chinese hosiery factory is marketing scented stockings. In addition to being transparent, soft and elastic, they have a fragrance which will last through at least 10 washings, according to the Peking Daily.

Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the Maison de France on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfurstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time.

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible. West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured.

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

Beirut bomb kills French soldier

From Kate Doerlan Beirut

One French soldier was killed and eight were injured in a fire and explosion in a garage used by French peacekeeping forces in the Muslim sector of Beirut yesterday. A bomb at the Air France office in the Christian sector injured two Lebanese employees.

The French command in Beirut said the cause of the fire in the garage was not known. Three of the wounded were in critical condition. They had been carrying a box of ammunition from a jeep when it exploded.

While there is every indication that the explosion was an accident, its occurrence coincided with a report that the Lebanese Defence Minister had requested the expansion of the multinational peacekeeping force from the four contributing countries, France, Italy, Britain and the United States. It was a somewhat ominous coincidence.

Earlier in the day, Mr Robert McFarlane, the special American envoy to the Middle East, had flown to Rome for talks with defence officials there. Radio reports here suggested Mr McFarlane might also travel to Paris and London, apparently to discuss the possibility of the three Governments increasing the number of their servicemen in Beirut.

The explosion came soon after an official announcement that President Gemayel would make a speech to the nation. There was speculation that he would appeal for help in his efforts to deploy the American-trained Lebanese Army in the Chouf mountains after Israel completes its redeployment plans.

Soon afterwards, Mr Pierre Gemayel, the President's father and head of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party, issued a statement on behalf of the Christian coalition known as the Lebanese Forces announcing that his militias were ready to vacate their barracks in the Chouf mountains if the Lebanese Army moved in.

The announcement by the Lebanese Forces was baffling in view of the fact that it came one day after the coalition had issued a statement saying its leaders rejected Mr Gemayel's call for reconciliation talks unless foreign forces left Lebanon first.

The Namibia equation Angola pessimistic on UN mission

No one in the Angolan capital has a drop of optimism to sweeten the arrival of Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who flies in from South Africa today. Officially he is to discuss the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the United Nations which aims to bring South-West Africa (Namibia) to independence. However, the Angolans and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), which has been fighting the South Africans for 17 years, perceive the details of the UN plan as purely academic.

As they see it, there has been no decision by the South African to withdraw from Namibia. Furthermore, any of the details of the UN plan could be made into big issues by South Africa in an attempt to gain more time.

The Angolans point to the build-up of South African forces in northern Namibia and southern Angola and are expecting air attacks by the South Africans as soon as Senor de Cuellar leaves tomorrow. They also recall the battle of Cangamba last week, in which South African forces apparently intervened to suppress an attack on the town, by Unita, the South African backed insurgents, forcing the Angolan Government forces to withdraw.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ngongo, the head of military intelligence in the region, said on Wednesday that the attack on Cangamba had been made in coincidence with Senor de Cuellar's visit "so that the South Africans can present Unita as part of the Namibia equation".

The South Africans are demanding the withdrawal of the head of military intelligence from the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

JOHANNESBURG: Senor de Cuellar, saw for himself yesterday why the lights burn dimly in South-West Africa (Ray Kennedy writes). He was escorted over the massive hydro-electric power station at Ruacana, on the border with Angola, which was designed to light up the whole of the territory and a large part of southern Angola.

The Angolan Government refuses to open sluices on the Cunene river further upstream which means that the power station can operate only at limited capacity. The transmission lines, also, are frequent targets for sabotage by Swapo guerrillas infiltrating from bases in southern Angola.

The Secretary-General, who arrived in Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa yesterday spoke of his personal satisfaction at being able "to familiarize myself with the situation in this country".

He spent the rest of the day getting acquainted with the complex internal political situation of a country with barely one million people but several dozen political parties.

Mr Andreas Shipanga, former senior political official in the Swapo hierarchy and now leader of the rival Swapo-Democrats based in Windhoek, was the first to meet Senor Cuellar.

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor Geneva

Some of the more cautious international civil servants among the 2,500 at the UN Palais des Nations complex have thought it advisable to buy individual "all eventualities" insurance cover for the duration of the international conference on Palestine being held there from Monday until September 7. Others are conveniently going on holiday.

Those remaining at their desks in the 14-storey conference building have protested at some emergency staircases being blocked for security reasons.

Apprehension has become apparent at the spectacle of the UN complex, which has a perimeter of about two and a half miles, being converted by the Swiss Army into a fortress surrounded by barbed wire and barriers, adjoining roads being closed or restricted and nearby schools closed until the second week of September.

A no-go area between the barriers is surveyed by soldiers in camouflage uniforms, with orders to shoot at any intruder disregarding a single command to halt. The two UN buildings are guarded by an augmented force of UN security men, both uniformed and plain clothes all linked by radio.

The other main focus of security is the airport. About a dozen crossing points along the French frontier are closed, with the military patrolling all along its length.

Security precautions are officially described as the most extensive Geneva has ever seen, with 2,000 soldiers from two tank battalions and an artillery company, plus 600 police, half of them detached from other cantons - leaving as many Geneva police again for normal duties.



Cuban troops from Angola - said to number about 20,000 - as part of an agreement with Namibian independence, but the Angolan Government appears to be standing firm on this.

In a speech to the country on Tuesday, President Eduardo dos Santos put the attacks from South Africa in an East-West context, accusing the United States of backing South Africa. Some diplomatic sources here have interpreted this as a plea for more support for Angola.

Salvador military shoot Italian at roadblock

San Salvador (Reuters) - Salvadoran soldiers shot and killed an Italian engineer when he apparently tried to break through an army road block.

Military officials and spokesman for CEL, the state-owned electricity company, said Signor Vinorino Andreto, aged 33, was killed and another person injured at the road block on the Quebrada Seca bridge, 50 miles east of the capital.

Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, CEL's president, said that Signor Andreto, who worked for a company called Cogefar with a dozen Swiss and Italian engineers on a hydroelectric plant in San Vicente province, had left the dam site around midnight on Tuesday.

Soldiers opened fire when Signor Andreto refused to heed their instructions to halt, Colonel Moran said, adding that Cogefar, contracted by the El Salvador Government to build the plant did not blame the soldiers. An Italian embassy spokesman refused to comment.

The dam is financed by the World Bank and will open next month. Meanwhile El Salvador's Roman Catholic bishops have accused the country's legislators of passing a new constitution without proper evaluation of its provisions and at a time of "no real freedom" for conscientious action.

The charge came in a statement by the episcopal conference that said the Constituent Assembly was following party lines in passing the draft constitution.

GUATEMALA: President Mejia Victores of Guatemala said in his first news conference since taking power two weeks ago that he would retain a new tax imposed by his predecessor (Reuters reports).

The move surprised some diplomats, who had regarded the new law-added tax as one of the main reasons for the coup.

Since the Federal Electoral Commission declared President Shagari, candidate of the ruling National Party of Nigeria, winner of the August 6 presidential poll with more than 12 million votes, some four million ahead of the runner-up, his opponents of the other five parties have alleged ballot-rigging and other electoral malpractices.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Geidar Aliyev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations.

Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

Earlier, Mr Block had signed a new grain agreement providing for an increase in American grain supplies over the next five years. He described this as a very important occasion. Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, who signed on behalf of Russia, nodded and said "yes".

It was not the most earth shattering exchange between politicians of East and West but it did mark a slight thaw in the distinctly chilly relations between Moscow and the Reagan Administration. Mr Block is the most senior administration official to visit here since the funeral of President Brezhnev last November.

The meeting with Mr Aliyev, who is a full Politburo member, is seen as a sign that both sides are using the visit to explore a political rapprochement, perhaps eventually leading to an Andropov-Reagan summit. The meeting was squeezed into what amounted to a one and a half day visit.

Mr Block leaves Moscow this morning. He said on arrival on Wednesday that the new grain agreement not only marked a return to more normal trading relations but also showed that Russia and America could work together on "issues of mutual significance".

At a press conference Mr Block said the agreement - valued at \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year - had put an "emphatic end to a very difficult chapter in our grain trading relations". Under the agreement the Russians will buy a minimum of nine million tonnes.

The American share of Soviet grain imports, which slumped to 20 per cent after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the ensuing grain embargo, is now expected to rise to 40 per cent. Diplomats said, however, that it would not approach the 76 per cent share enjoyed by Washington before 1979, and added that Afghanistan remained one of several stumbling blocks.

Mr Block's visit has received no publicity in the Soviet media, while a fierce anti-American propaganda campaign has continued unabated. Sovietkrya Rossiya yesterday attacked a range of American policies, describing Washington's stand on arms control as "double faced".

Tass, taking a less enthusiastic line than Mr Block, described his meeting with Mr Aliyev as "humblelike". The agency described the deal as an "agreement on trade in some agricultural commodities", avoiding all reference to Russian grain imports. It said Mr Block and Mr Aliyev expressed the hope that the agreement would "contribute to the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation" and did not suggest it had wider political significance.



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

On Wednesday Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, gave him an unusually blunt warning that if West Germany went ahead with deployment, the Soviet Union would be "forced to station more medium-range missiles. He also said that it would be necessary to deploy effective kinds of operative-tactical missiles with a longer range in forward positions in Warsaw Pact countries.

His warning was prominently displayed in East German newspapers yesterday. He also told Herr Bahr that the missiles the Russians would put in East Germany would reach their targets more quickly than the Pershings aimed at Moscow. But he added that an arms agreement in Geneva was still possible.

The Christian-Social Union, whose leader Herr Franz Josef Strauss met Herr Honecker on a controversial visit last month, criticized the East German leader's remarks as being of "little help". He said that the threatened deployment in the East raised the question whether the Soviet side was seriously interested in disarmament.

During his visit, Herr Bahr also discussed the DM1,000m (£250m) West German credit to East Berlin. The two countries' close economic links were further underlined earlier this week by West German trade figures for the first half of 1983, which showed that trade with East Germany rose by 16 per cent over last year.

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Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by The Times is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, Die Welt, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in The Times on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that Belgium and The Netherlands would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that government circles in Brussels

waiting for moves in this direction which they could follow. Such a development would be viewed with alarm here.

Die Welt said that the suggestions for a reduced Rhine Army ran into considerable scepticism here. What The Times considered as tactical rigidity was, for German politicians and military, the kernel of Nato's aims - ensuring that without widespread operations on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries, possible attack from the East were stopped as close as possible to the inner-German frontier. This was possible with the forces as they now existed.

The Germans have also been hurt by suggestions that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.

Uganda leaders conclude \$7m pact in Russia

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

Four Uganda government ministers passed through London yesterday after concluding deals worth about £4.5m in Moscow.

They met a number of commercial contacts while in Britain, and appealed for investors to return to Kampala.

Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, the Minister of Internal Affairs and leader of the delegation, said that security was now comparable with that in any other African country at a similar stage of development.

The Soviet Union had agreed to grant \$5m worth of credits for a textile mill which had been started with Soviet help in the 1960s, and a school for agricultural technicians.

The Russians also promised to write off \$2m worth of debt

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Cameroonian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago, President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling, a swindler" and a "hypocrite".

Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroon National Union which he retained when he stepped down after 22 years as President late last year.

Mr Biya announced earlier this week that he had smashed a plot to overthrow him.

Mr Ahidjo denied accusations by Cameroonian exiles in France that he had stolen some \$2,500m (£1,600m) of state funds during his time in power and that he was planning to use it to recapture power.

Israel cements trade and aid ties with Liberia

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The state visit to Israel by General Samuel Doe, the Liberian leader, ends today after expressions of satisfaction on both sides over the signing of an agreement which would involve the rapid dispatch of Israeli experts to Monrovia.

According to the pact, the Israeli assistance in the first instance will be limited to agriculture, shipping, road building and the reorganization of Liberia's national airline. Details of military aid and intelligence cooperation have not been made public.

In diplomatic circles, it is considered that Israel has done as much as possible in its present dire economic circumstances to repay General Doe for becoming the first African head of state to visit Jerusalem since 26 African countries broke ties in 1973.

Officials here are optimistic that the aid package and the cordiality extended to the large Liberian party will encourage other African states to renew relations. Talks about a resumption of ties with the Central African Republic took place recently.

General Doe - who cancelled a press conference yesterday because of "fatigue" - has reiterated by confirming that Liberia will become the third country to site its Embassy in Jerusalem rather than Tel Aviv.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

# Canadian Liberal Party backbenchers clamour for Trudeau's resignation

Mr Pierre Trudeau's ears must be burning since the Canadian Prime Minister left on a European holiday with his three sons more than a week ago, there has been an unprecedented outbreak of calls for his resignation from backbench MPs of his Liberal Party.

And this week, to add to his tribulations, a Cabinet minister sworn in 10 days earlier suddenly quit for undisclosed personal reasons. He was Mr Roger Simmons, Minister for Mines and Newfoundland's representative in the Cabinet. He has been an MP since 1979.

Suddenly, the Prime Minister's hold on the party and on power seems to have become extremely weak.

Seven Liberal MPs interviewed in a survey by the Canadian Press news agency stated their belief - on the record - that he should step down.

Perhaps the bluntest of the seven was Mr John Reid, a former Minister for Federal-Provincial Relations who was passed over when Mr Trudeau put together a new Cabinet on regaining power in 1980.

"I believe it's time for Mr Trudeau to go," Mr Reid, who represents north-western Ontario riding, said. "He's completed his agenda and I don't know what he is sticking around for."

Mr Trudeau's position has been so unchallengeable and his control over the party caucus so strict, that such a demonstration would have been unthinkable.

Until now, Mr Trudeau's position has been so unchallengeable and his control over the party caucus so strict, that such a demonstration would have been unthinkable.

That it should be happening indicated that a growing number of Liberals view him as a liability and - just as important - that they feel their own political futures are best served by trying to hasten his departure.

A recent devastating Gallup poll no doubt convinced some that they no longer have anything to lose by speaking out. It showed the opposition Progressive Conservatives leading the Liberals by the biggest margin yet in voter support nationally: 55 per cent to 27 per cent, with the New Democratic Party at 16 per cent.

Members of the Liberal majority in the Commons are plainly worried about their chances of surviving the next election.

"I tell you, it's not easy being a Liberal MP these days," a senior Conservative Liberal from south-western Ontario recently remarked. "The other day over lunch in one of the parliamentary cafeterias."

He was in Ottawa for a few days on business, saying he had broken from summer holidays in his constituency, where feelings against the Government are running high.

Since returning to power in 1980 after a nine-month Tory tenure of office, the Liberals under Mr Trudeau have had the misfortune of presiding over the worst recession in Canada's post-war history.

The Liberals are reaping the whirlwind - or so it appears - for their haste in engineering the overthrow of the Tory minority government and snatching back power, which in 1980 they had had for 38 of the previous 45 years.

As it turned out they could not have picked a worse time to return to office, with the economic downturn deepening almost everywhere.

Mr Trudeau, who has been in office since 1968 except for the brief Tory interlude, is the focus of much of the frustration and discontent felt by Liberals as their party's fortunes tumble.

The president of the party, Mrs Joan Campagnolo, summed up the feelings of many Liberals and the hope of many others, when she said recently that the public's dissatisfaction with the Prime Minister, not the Liberal Party.

In line with that, a senior adviser to Mr Trudeau was later quoted as saying the Prime Minister will probably announce his resignation by Christmas. In fact, he may no longer have much choice.

# Minister is jeered and booed in Gdansk

Gdansk (AP, Reuters) - Workers at the Lenin shipyard here greeted Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowicki, the deputy Prime Minister, with boos, whistles and hisses yesterday.

When he finally began his address at 4 pm it was to between 1,500 and 2,000 workers packed into a hall designed to hold 800.

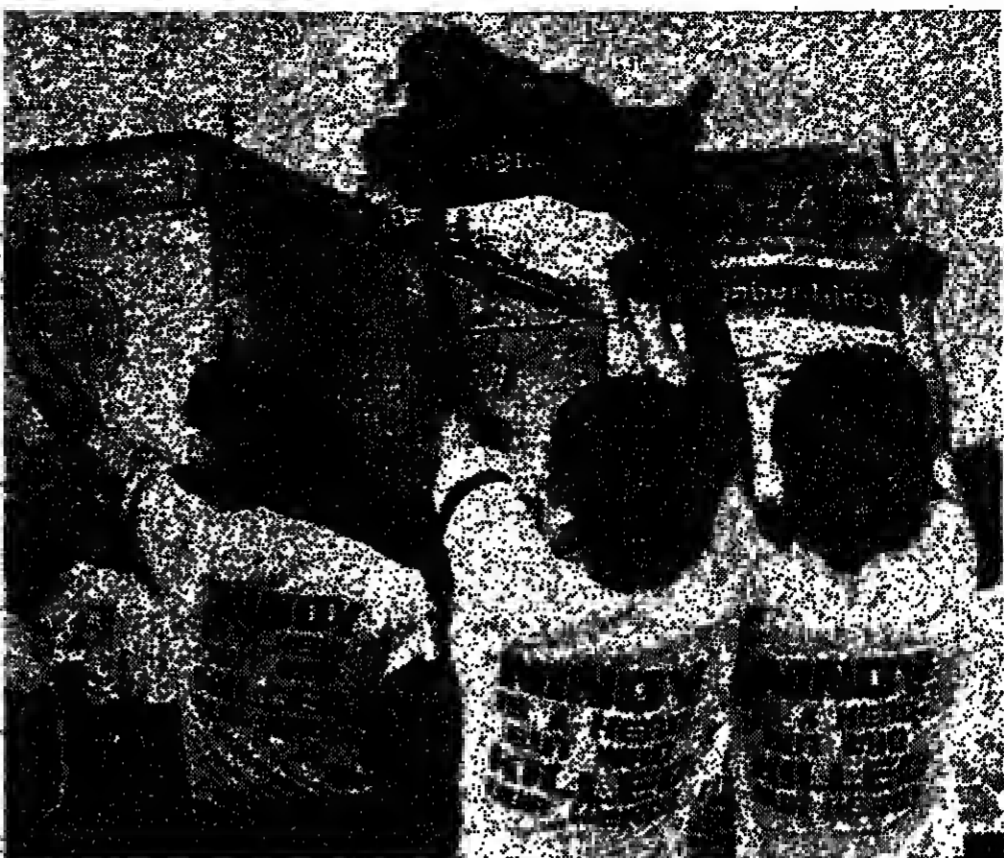
Meanwhile, workers at the entrance to the shipyard said that a go-slow was in progress in many of the workshops.

The crowd outside the meeting hall grew steadily as a contingent of militia moved into place round the monument to victims of the workers' revolt to December 1970, a traditional Solidarity rallying point next to the shipyards.

Earlier, the Government stepped up its propaganda barrage to discredit Solidarity in advance of possible protests at the end of the month to mark the anniversary of the creation of the independent trade union.

The campaign included only a brief reference to Mr Wladyslaw Huzar, the underground leader in Cracow who appeared on television on Tuesday to announce that he was giving up his struggle and was freed under an amnesty.

Newspapers gave prominence to a report by the PAP news agency that a call for a work slow-down at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, had failed.



# Thousands follow Aquino coffin

Mourners marching behind the coffin of Benigno Aquino in Manila yesterday. The huge crowds waved placards such as "Remember Ninoy", the nickname of the murdered Filipino opposition leader (Reuters reports).

Eyewitnesses said the crowds following the coffin from the Aquino family home to Santo Domingo church about a mile away were almost double the police estimate of 60,000.

Mr Aquino's widow, Corason, returned from the United States with their five children on Wednesday night for the funeral.

The Philippines' police chief, Major-General Fidel Ramos, said yesterday contingency plans had been drawn up against possible disturbances when large numbers of people arrived in Manila for the funeral, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

# Vanishing politician deported to Austria

From W. P. Reeves Wellington

A former Austrian parliamentarian who disappeared under mysterious circumstances while on holiday in Italy two years ago will be deported from New Zealand to his homeland to face fraud charges.

Walter Paul Renner, aged 37, described by his lawyer as a "political hot potato" was convicted in Auckland yesterday on two immigration charges.

Renner was a leading figure in a property development company which had accumulated debts totalling £1.5m. His counsel, Mr Kevin Gould, told the court that the sum involved in fraud charges against him amounted to £40,000.

Renner disappeared on September 5, 1981. His clothes were found on a beach and he was presumed to have drowned. He is understood to have travelled first to England before arriving in New Zealand in November, 1981.

Under an alias he found work as a machine operator. Mr Gould said Renner had become an MP in Austria in 1979. His liberal views had led to his falling out with the party leader early in 1981.

According to Mr Gould the strife he caused made him a hot potato. At the same time the company of which he was managing director got into "tremendous financial difficulties" and he resigned.

# 'Dead' Argentine escapes captors

Buenos Aires (Reuters, AP) - Señor Patricio Kelly, a key witness in several human rights court cases who was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on Wednesday, is alive and well after escaping from his captors.

Earlier reports said he had been found dead outside the capital.

Señor Kelly told the police he got away by jumping out of a car. His wife Irma told the independent news agency Noticias Argentinas that he escaped near the Buenos Aires suburb of Ingeniero Maschwitz.

"Patricio is very hurt because he jumped out from the moving car," she said.

An eyewitness reported that Señor Kelly, running and shouting, "I'm Kelly, I'm Kelly," told the police and Buenos Aires, appeared at an Argentine Automobile club station. A police car took him to a police station.

Señor Kelly, a maverick figure in Argentine politics, was kidnapped by a group of armed men in the capital shortly after leaving his home by car for the city centre.

A police car was on the spot but did not intervene to help him. Señor Kelly was beaten up and driven off in his own car, eye witnesses said.

A police statement said one of the kidnapers was a man dressed in the uniform of an army colonel. He told the policemen that only a minor traffic accident had taken place and they drove off.

A clandestine group calling itself "Free Argentines" claimed that it had kidnapped and killed Señor Kelly. In a brief news conference in front of his suburban home Señor Kelly refused to say how he escaped. His face bruised



Señor Kelly. Political crusades led to jail

and cut, he said he had promised a criminal court judge "not to talk" about his experience.

But in a subsequent interview with a Buenos Aires radio station he identified his captors as a man "distinguished as an army colonel" and a dozen psychopaths, old professionals from the union gangs, paid bodyguards.

At the press conference he said his abduction was designed to pressure him. He denied planning his own kidnapping to draw attention to charges he has made against former officials.

Señor Kelly once described himself as "an independent nationalist sharp shooter." He is a colourful figure who began his political career as the leader of a pro-Peronist strong-arm group in the 1950s.

Since then he has launched several political crusades against powerful Argentine political leaders which have landed him in jail on seven occasions. In 1957 he made a spectacular escape from prison disguised as a woman.

# Lawyer charged over sex tape report

Los Angeles (Reuters) Mr Robert Steinberg, a lawyer, has been charged with filing a false police report claiming that sex films involving Reagan Administration officials were stolen from his office.

"The people's theory in the case is that the films never existed", Miss Marsha Revel, the prosecutor, told a Beverly Hills municipal court.

Mr Steinberg attracted wide attention last month when he said he had seen sex films showing two officials of ambassadorial rank, a Congressman, two prominent businessmen, Alfred Bloomingdale, the late multi-millionaire adviser to President Reagan, and Miss Vicki Morgan, Mr Bloomingdale's mistress, who was murdered on July 7.

# Three in daring escape to West by plane

Gratz, Austria (AP) - Three Romanians yesterday escaped to the West in a crop-dusting aircraft, flying low to avoid radar.

They made a daring emergency landing near Rohrbach and asked for political asylum.

Police said the three were the pilot, aged 30, another man, aged 27, and his pregnant wife, aged 22, who was rushed to hospital in Harburg.

One of the Romanians is reported to have said he wanted to go to the United States.

RAM BRAMSTEDT: Two East German workers fled across the border into northern West Germany yesterday (AP reports). West German border guards said the two men, aged 21 and 25, reached Schleswig-Holstein unharmed.

# Civilians named in new Upper Volta Cabinet

Ouagadougou (AFP) - A new Upper Volta Government has been formed, mostly of civilians, three weeks after the coup by radical Army officers led by Captain Thomas Sankara against the administration of Major Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo.

The 15 civilians and five military men in the new Government, installed on Wednesday night, are very young, with an average age of about 30.

Captain Sankara, who was Prime Minister under Major Ouédraogo before being dismissed earlier this year, holds the offices of head of state and Minister of the Interior and Security.

The new Cabinet includes a number of ministers who were ousted after the May 17 arrest of Captain Sankara.

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**NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES. THE NEW 26TH ISSUE.**

20 years after Martin Luther King's stirring speech, American blacks are still fighting for equality. Reaganomics means hard times for many and the black protest is growing, writes Trevor Fishlock

Dreaming that dream

New York The words echoed over Washington, and America beyond, sounding the end of one age and the beginning of another. "I have a dream..." It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King stood under gaunt Lincoln's gaze and cried out in impassioned oratory to the quarter of a million people who had marched on the capital.

There followed the frenzied last stand of white supremacists, black fury and burning cities, and the murder of Martin Luther King himself five years after the declaration of his dream.

And in time the moderate civil rights movement, in which blacks linked hands with whites to sing "We Shall Overcome", began to wither as disillusioned blacks concluded it was better to put an angry chin than offer a conciliatory cheek.

Dr King's oration at the Lincoln Memorial marked the peak of a movement acceptable to liberals for its nobility of purpose. But it also foretold that "whirlwinds of revolt" would go on shaking the United States - and they did. So while the speech was inspiring, it was also a sombre warning.

White liberals in the civil rights crusade found, like negroes, that slaying diarch southern dragons was not enough, that there were no easy solutions. They were perplexed and frightened by the bitterness of black revolt.

And blacks exposed the painful truth that racism was not just southern: it was American. Prejudice and hypocrisy flourished in the North, too.

The black grievance slid from stage centre as Vietnam dominated national consciousness in the 1970s. Today it is returning to prominence. Blacks know that much of Martin Luther King's dream remains a long way from realization, and they are growing restless for a fuller economic share.

The campaign of the 1960s wrought profound changes. The civil rights and voting rights acts were notable advances, bought with blood and suffering. The South today is astonished by what has been accomplished in the 20 years since Dr King said he dreamed that the children of slaves and slave owners would sit together.

But blacks see that far from being the end of the struggle the 1960s movement was an episode. It brought the deep South, at last, into the late twentieth century and properly into the United States, but its achievements were deceptive.

Blacks note with dismay that they are still far behind, bobbled by intractable difficulties, inequalities and discrimination. In a study two years ago, black academics decided "it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of blacks in American society".

The article said: "(On the radio it was) the blacks that, the blacks that, the blacks, the blacks... the words held out like a foul-smelling sock transported at the end of an arm."

"So many whites had never considered that blacks could do much. My white colleagues realized, perhaps for the first time, that I was one of 'them'. I was suddenly threatening. I have been unprepared for the silence with which colleagues greeted Washington's nomination."

"Solving racial problems will take more than living and going to school together and all those laudable and naive goals I defend. This affair has robbed me of my innate black hope of true integration. No white will be trusted again by the innermost me."

Bishop H. N. Brookins, a leading Los Angeles churchman, said to me: "After all these years white Americans do not really know us, do not know how diverse we are. I feel frustrated that we have not come far enough, have not been able to make white Americans understand our desire to be part of the whole."

"There is still resistance to black progress. White conservatives play on fears that black advance is at white expense. Racial division is the number one problem. The job market is still segregated and the black man finds himself running to remain in the same place."

Many of America's 27 million blacks are economically mired, lacking bootstraps to pull on. Twenty years ago blacks earned, on average, 55 per cent as much as whites. They still do. But a better measure of economic standing is wealth, and average black wealth is only 36 per cent that of white. More blacks are below the poverty line than at the end of the 1960s.

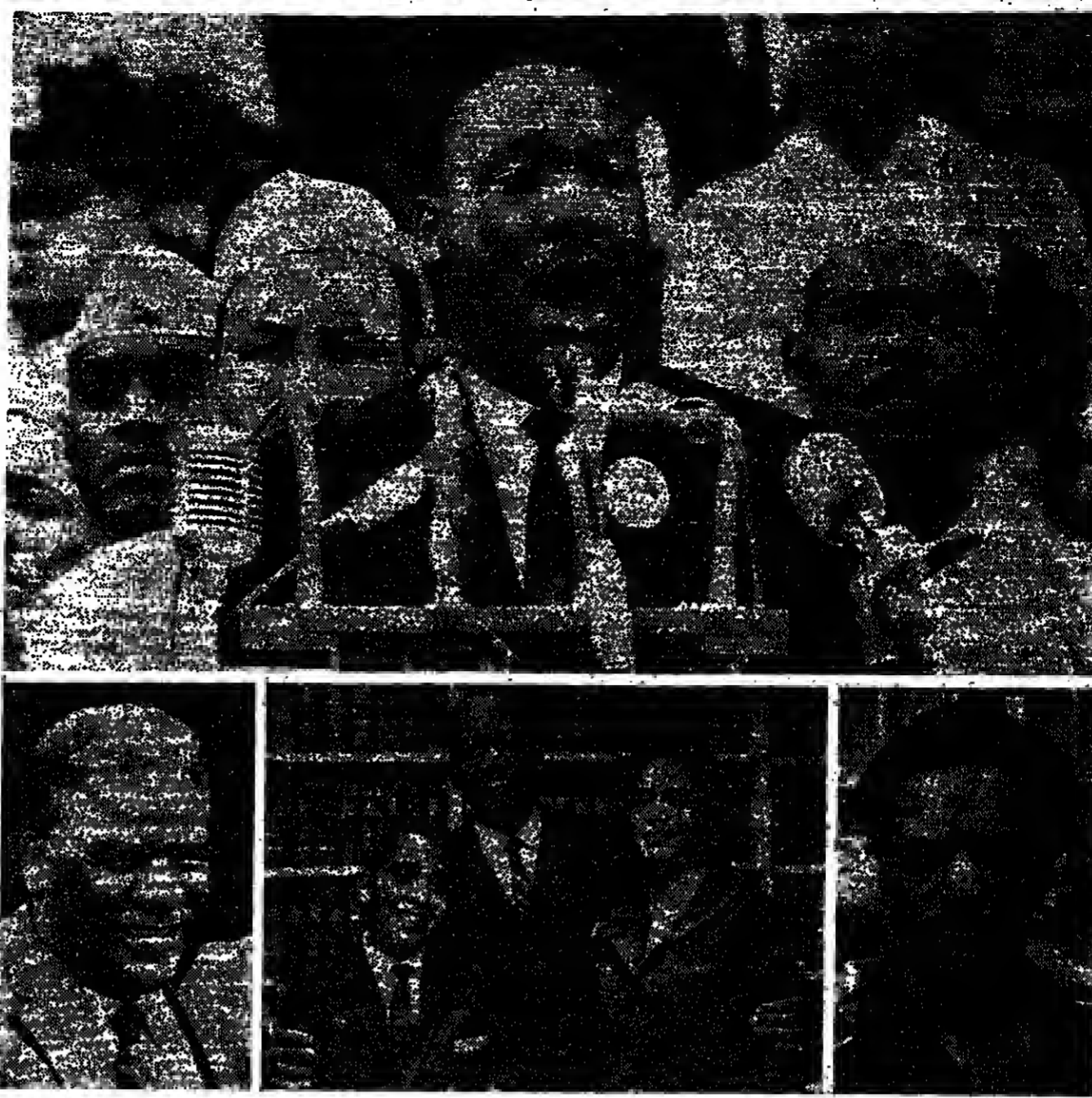
Unemployment is twice as high among blacks as among whites. Only 55 per cent of black men are working, compared with 74 per cent 20 years ago. Blacks feel bitter because they have suffered severely under President Reagan's economic regime. There is a welfare safety net, but the poor have been hurt by cuts in government spending, and for many blacks Reaganomics spells discrimination and hard times.

Life is harder for blacks. They have a shorter lifespan than whites, higher rates of infant mortality, divorce, separation and mental illness. Almost half of black 17-year-olds are illiterate. Bigotry and fear help to push the scales in their disfavour. Unions still make it difficult for them to get some jobs. There are few blacks in boardrooms and managers' chairs. Blacks are prominent in many sports, but few get into management.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights recently criticized the Reagan Administration for failing to set a good anti-discrimination example, citing a decline in the appointment of blacks and women.

"The resistance to social equity is fierce", a recent study by the Joint Centre for Political Studies, a black think tank, said. "There is a continuing climate of racism."

Among all the difficulties blacks encounter - unemployment, ghetto life, illiteracy, the results of industrial decline, the failure of billions of dollars to pull them from the bottom - perhaps the most disturbing is the corrosion of black family life.



"I have a dream": Martin Luther King (top) at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and below, three of the men continuing the fight, from left Washington, Johnson and Jackson

overall black birthrate has fallen, the birthrate among single women has tripled in 20 years. Black leaders talk of an epidemic of births outside wedlock and are concerned at the decline in family and community responsibility, the damage to a traditionally family-oriented people.

Blacks see their tormented history and economic and social circumstances as contributors to this rot. They think the government should help with programmes to rebuild family life, but do not believe it is primarily a government problem. Rather, they think the black community and institutions must do more.

Harold Washington, Chicago's mayor, says: "We were slow to move from the protest movement into politics, lulled into thinking that passing a few laws was enough." Law, however, does change minds by creating a framework of behaviour, and the laws of the 1960s helped make America, and especially the 11 southern states where 53 per cent of blacks live, more racially tolerant, with tensions easing along with the dismantling of apartheid.

"Yes, we've come a long way", Leroy Johnson said. He was Georgia's first black state senator 20 years ago. Drinking fountains, lavatories and cafés were segregated in the state assembly and, in his first session, only four of 52 senators spoke to him.

"All that's finished. The old open prejudice has gone, but it has moved into board rooms and is more subtle." The struggle of the 1960s led to fuller black participation in politics. Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2,000 black elected officials in America. Now there are more than 5,000.

In the mayor's office in Atlanta, premier city of the South, Andrew Young, former American Ambassador to the UN and once an aide to Martin Luther King, said it was important to remember how things were.

"When I was a student, on my way home from college, I was afraid to stop in this city. Now I'm its second black mayor."

"Much of Martin's dream has been achieved, the social inequalities he fought have gone. We don't have to march against brutal sheriffs any more. The police force in Atlanta, for example, is 48 per cent black. But there is still oppression and discrimination. We haven't been able to find ways of changing things rapidly enough."

In Washington, that August day, Martin Luther King also said: "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Whatever was happening in the rest of the United States, it was worse in Mississippi, poorest state in the union, where racism was brutal, embedded, legitimized.

Mississippians, black and white, look with wonder on the change from the days when soldiers had to make the state's demagogic leaders obey the law and desegregate. Charles Overy, executive editor of the Clarion-Ledger, in Jackson, the state capital, said: "I remember the day the first gubernatorial candidate shook hands publicly with a black man, knowing it would cost him votes."

"It used to be fashionable to be racist, part of the way of life. There was a great fear of the unknown in desegregation. But once the barrier was broken, people saw something good was happening. Everything here used to revolve around race. No longer. Mississippi held out to the last, now it is a model in race relationships."

Although race relations in Mississippi have improved, there is still prejudice. Whites fled the schools on desegregation, setting up private white academies. Some have failed because of poor teaching standards, some have run out of money. But white churches are supporting some of the white academies. The tradition of separate worship is still strong in the South. Black churches and white churches meet particular needs in their communities and have different styles of worship.

Gerrymandering and other manipulations have kept thousands of Mississippi blacks disfranchised or unable to get elected in black majority areas. Blacks are campaigning to end abuses, and to persuade people to register on the voters' lists - and to vote.

The effort is being led by the charismatic Jesse Jackson, a disciple of Martin Luther King, who has been roaming the South tirelessly, telling the crowds gathered in churches, cotton fields and under the shade of pecan trees: "There's a freedom train a-comin'. But you've got to register to ride."

He tells them: "Reagan won Alabama by 17,000 votes, but there were 272,000 unregistered blacks. He won Arkansas by 5,000 votes, with 85,000 unregistered blacks..."

He seeks to politicize and revitalize people who do not see voting as whites do, whose history of weariness and caution has deprived them of the community sense essential to the process of voting.

"I'm a catalyst," Jesse Jackson told me, "inspiring participation in democracy. God is using me as a magnet to draw and inform people."

During the 1970's many blacks became convinced that managerial and corporate liberalism had been exposed as ineffectual. They also looked to the Carter Administration to make improvements. It was disappointing. These failures, the recession and the squeeze of Reaganomics, accelerated the emergence of Jesse Jackson, a more militant man than Martin Luther King.

"We've won freedom," he said. "But not equality." His emphasis is on demands for an economic and political share of what white Americans have - "A share, not welfare" - and his activist organization, PUSH, confronts corporations, asking for better jobs deals.

Blacks are proud to have several big-city mayors among 5,000 elected black officials across the country. But 5,000 is only just over one per cent of the total, while blacks are nearly 12 per cent of the population. There are no black senators.

Typically, a black elected official is a well-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Democrat, voted in primarily by blacks. This profile demonstrates the difficulties blacks face in meeting America on equal terms. The middle class is the spring of political change, but the black middle class is very small and educational standards desperately need improvement. During the 1960s it was white civil rights workers who stiffened the ranks of the black middle class.

One of the key arenas for black assertion is in the Democratic Party, which blacks traditionally support. It is here that white intentions and liberal attitudes will be tested, perhaps painfully, for blacks are increasingly insistent that civil rights by themselves are not enough, that they must have political muscle and an economic payoff.

Twenty years ago Martin Luther King spoke at a time of struggle when hopes were running high. Today many blacks feel those hopes have been betrayed. The struggle is being renewed, and spirits are rising again. But the road looks harder.

said: "I see it as my duty to explain all this to women for their sake, their children and their grandchildren."

As the group meets to plan its evening's canvass, two Protestant brothers who joined because they saw the proposed amendment as a regression, an attempt to halt the liberalization of the last few years, admit that such a group would have been "unthinkable" 20 years ago. Said one: "Its existence shows a social change that has taken place and the number of Protestants involved is evidence that we are no longer prepared to sit back and opt for a quiet life. That happened too much in the past."

Many in the anti-amendment campaign privately believe they will lose the vote, pointing to the influence the clergy could have on the faithful on the last Sunday before polling. Others believe that they may lose the battle, but win the war.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Fringe benefits, and worse

"I think you'll find our production of Othello is rather different. We only have four performers: Othello, Desdemona, and two Iagos. One of the Iagos is a man, the other is a woman. Oh, and Othello is white."

"I'm from New Zealand and I'm doing a one-man show based on Highland music. I happen to think that the Scots have lost sight of the history and meaning of their own music, and I've come over here to try and put them right."

"There are four deaf people in our production of Goldoni's play, and the whole thing is done with speaking and sign language simultaneously."

"We're both 18 and we've formed our own dance company called Moove Dancers. There are only the two of us in it. We must be mad."

"I think they must all be mad. I think I must be mad. This is the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Fringe, the one chance the groups get to come face to face with the media, or at least advertise. \$3M Michael Dale puts it, the time when the groups try to meet the press and the press tries to avoid the groups. There are hundreds of groups and they've all got a member here, handing out leaflets and doing a fast spiel about their show."

"Hi, we're the Hip Pocket Theatre from Fort Worth and we are the first Texan group ever to come to the festival, there are 45 of us doing three Texan plays and the Fort Worth Star Telegram has sent a reviewer all the way here just to review us. He flew home again afterwards."

"Hello, we're the Omelette Broadcasting Company and we are the only improvising comedy group on the fringe, we ask the audience for ideas at the start and then we improvise on them."

"I'm Richard Festerstein and I'm in an Athol Fugard play about a South African brother and sister. I play the brother, and the sister is played by my mother. We got a rave review in The Scotsman last year, right at the end, so we've come back again."

"We're doing Ben Hur at the Wireworks Theatre. Yes, we're doing the chariot race."

"We're the only group on the fringe doing eighteenth century music on authentic instruments."

"I have an exhibition of patchwork quilts at 4 Manor Place."

Why are all these people telling me these things? Because only one member of each group is allowed in and one member of our group (Instant Sunshine, advt.) has already got in, so I am masquerading as a journalist. The Times, says my lapel badge. It was a bad mistake. All these people are now telling me things.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 134)

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-25.

- ACROSS: 1 Indications (7), 2 Abandon (5), 3 Twitch (3), 4 Chess (7), 5 High clouds (5), 6 Only remaining (4), 7 Fire lottery (7), 8 Five to twelve (13), 9 Left out (7), 10 Opposed to (4), 11 Union fire (5), 12 Reckless (7), 13 Zealand parrot (3), 14 Push slowly (5), 15 Widespread (7). DOWN: 1 Sprites (4), 2 Deep skin layer (5), 3 Riposte (13), 4 Sump (5), 5 Adaptation (13), 6 Covered walk (7), 7 Outer sepals (8), 11 Beneficial right (8), 12 Guzzled (7), 13 Remove trousers (5), 19 Acceptor (5), 20 Touch (4).

سكزامن الاصل

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Pigeon peril for heart patient

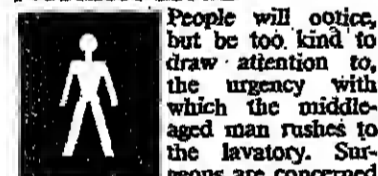
Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia; a very rare and potentially deadly fungal disease borne by pigeons.

On June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space. It must have been this dust, breathed in by Mr Castle, which contained the lethal fungus Cryptococcus neoformans.

He was aware of the infection only because of a fortunate chest X-ray, for the fungus does not give rise to symptoms and serious trouble until it has spread from the lungs. In his case the disease, diagnosed while still confined to the lungs, has been treated with the powerful antifungal agent Amphotericin B, which he has had intravenously for four hours every other day. He has now completed two-thirds of the course; for the last third he will be an outpatient. His many well-wishers will be glad to know that the infection is receding.

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by Chlamydia psittaci. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily spread with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline. People whose association with pigeons does not go beyond throwing them the occasional stale crust are unlikely to be affected.

Needless dread



People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation. With a good surgeon, and if all goes well, a man may have a transurethral resection, the internal operation without any external wound, and be back at work within a fortnight. Although in most men with prostatic symptoms the enlargement can be classified as benign, in some the tissue has turned malignant. There is good news for these patients. Two studies published in The Lancet of a new ICI product suggest that soon treatment may be possible without a man having to tolerate mutilating surgery, or the side effects of huge, castrating doses of female hormones.

Partnership problems

Scientists writing in the America Journal of Epidemiology have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data gleaned from 169 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times; if the wife works outside the home by 3.5 times. The danger can be minimized if the man chooses a woman with a similar personality to his own; married to an easy-going woman he will fare particularly badly.

New antidepressant

The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the correspondent's columns of The Times this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants.

Bupropion, therefore, may join a long list of preparations which are available only on one side of the Atlantic.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with raisins and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week. Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-hating aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americanophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinions Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure, and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their satisfaction from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstract or hypotheticals. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their apings.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12, and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be lanced during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular - favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly under-subscribed Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blazer: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something, like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture - the country appears to them to be bigger, brasher, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food; healthcare; heat/climate; and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the sea is warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another child with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 84 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplanes are the most popular means of getting there with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get excited, I love going on ferries, then you start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they felt sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are so bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

you get room service, if you make a mess it's all cleared up for you. Boys share the judgment, but only with a figure of 39 per cent compared with the girls' 53 per cent. For both genders, a camp site is second choice and a villa third.

The top five desiderata at hotels are: swimming pool, restaurants and bars, indoor games, nice beds and outdoor games. "Fitted carpets and a waiter to bring my food by the pool," says a 10-year-old girl. "Marble tiles in the corridors so I can make a noise with my shoes," says a male cotemporary.

Ice cream tops the list of favourite holiday fare (only two per cent declaring it "horrid"), but all the other popular options (fish and chips, soup, fried chicken and french bread) score in the high eighties or nineties. In the hate poll, snails just outstrip frogs legs, with octopus only slightly less loathsome.

The ten "most fun activities" are, in order: staying up late, swimming in a pool, playing on the beach, going to an adventure playground, attending parties/barbecues, swimming in the sea, playing with other English children, boating and water sports, going to discos, and eating in a restaurant.

Less fun activities include going for a drink with Mum and Dad, watching parades and playing in hotel lifts.

While away, only 36 per cent miss home, 60 per cent do not, and four per cent are uncertain. Most sorely missed by one respondent is "Foxy the cat, Bramble my best Teddy, and my bed." The quote is not attributed, but, with altered names, the sentiments are infinitely transferable.

Mr Andrew Barrett, marketing director of Cooks, believes that his company, thus armed, will be better able to point the undecided parent, or indeed child, in the right direction. As you read this, he himself is travelling to Disneyland with his two young children, who have been pressing him for an answer to the question: "How big are the Mickey Mouses and do they move about?" Meanwhile, I am going to the Lake District for the umpteenth time, to stay with my wife's seven-year-old god-daughter, do hope her parents are there, since chatting to them is high on my list of fun activities. My daughter, who is five, longs to stay there year after year, which is fortunate.

One reason for this - not the main one I hope - is that the older girl has a splendid wardrobe of dresses which devotee to her as the most radiant of hand-me-downs. But that, I suppose, is cheating.

COMMENT

Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the hazy sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children, and lovers dawdling. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there", according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, a book called Inside the Inner City. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as is the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been hurled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelicts within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired. The boarded site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place. Pelican, £3.95.

Philippa Toomey

TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children.

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodward Road, Dulwich

Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappies and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly treble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit. First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of freetime each day, however scant, and guard it jealously.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil yourself) going. This way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived.

Replace the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You could see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R Lamberton, 48 The Avenue Key, Surrey

I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts how I and others manage to do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for three years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons:

1 An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on a hourly basis.



once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards.

6. A supportive husband.

The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else.

However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "baby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Corns Road, Great Glenn, Leicester

Margery Roberts mirrors much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is relatively simple we have no genuine need for a second income.

But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

long, boring hours in an unfulfilling job before returning home to tackle the household tasks that take Margery Roberts and me a whole day to complete.

From Margaret Galling, Almondhurst, Currys Lane, Old Woking

I have recently resumed a career as part-time midwife after a three-year break in which I had two children, went to university, started keeping chickens and had a jolly good time.

I have been sadly disillusioned. In my own home I am the kingpin - sit as judge and jury for all family misdemeanours. My husband is far too busy.

Why on earth then did I feel the need to be important outside my family? I really don't know because the ghastly truth is that I am out! My brain seems perfectly capable, but my hands seem to have become prematurely senile as they wrestle with new-fangled drip sets and fancy machines.

My personal confidence has hit an all-time low as I have been told by an eighteen-year-old that I'm putting on oppies the wrong way and have got my mask on upside down.

The final blow is, of course, it's not really My Very Own Money. It must go to the joint finances. I would be peeved, after all, if my husband claimed his salary as His Very Own Money.

From Mrs S. E. Minchin, 14 Macklinburgh Square, London

When Margery Roberts is 50 or thereabouts, I wonder how she will receive a request from her daughter/daughter-in-law to be a nanny (unpaid) to a brood of grand-children, simply because their mother wants the best of both worlds.

Advertisement for THE TIMES Tomorrow, featuring headlines like 'EASY GLIDER: How safe is hang-gliding now?' and 'FAMILY MONEY: How much should your mortgage cost you?'

David Watt

# Giving the voters what they want

You can tell quite a lot about politicians from their holiday photographs. Harold Macmillan's penchant for pictures of himself in plus-fours surrounded by 12-bore aristocrats, Ted Heath's sailing shots, John Kennedy playing touch football on the Hyannis beach, Lyndon Johnson prodding steers on the banks of the Pecos, Harold Wilson seen guarding the approach to the Channel from his Scillies cottage - all these were highly revealing because they displayed the kind of person the subject was supposed to be when he wasn't being a politician. This is a matter of some importance in the image-building business, for voters like to identify with "the real person" behind the official persona or at least to share a little of his fantasy life.

Mrs Thatcher, paradoxically, is on a rather good and characteristic thing with her disappearance from camera view behind the expensive respectability of a Swiss chateau, for it encourages visions of cosy bourgeois privacy to which a lot of Tory voters no doubt aspire. But it is Ronald Reagan chopping logs on his California ranch and thinking about whether he will or will not run for the presidency in 1984, who takes the prize in this department. His appearance displays everything that the ordinary American voter can desire - immense wealth and a healthy on-the-range life-style with a touch of the old frontier thrown in. The log-chopping is not exactly new; Mr Gladstone thought of it first and even used to hand out the wood-chips to visiting Liberal delegations as souvenirs. But it effectively implies that this septuagenarian is a healthy, fit sort of type, well capable of carrying the burdens of the presidency for another four years, etc.

In short, this is exactly how Americans would like the president to relax and it is another example of Mr Reagan's apparently effortless ability to do the thing most likely to elicit sympathy and warmth from his fellow countrymen. Assuming that he does decide to run next year - and there is out a lot of doubt about it - it is the almost universal view of American commentators that this instinctive rapport will secure his election.

This is a phenomenon worth thinking about. What the conventional wisdom is stating is that Reagan will get a second term - partly because American presidents normally do get second terms but mainly because, the American people, if forced to choose, would rather have a nice guy in the White House than a genuinely effective president. It goes without saying that a man like Jimmy Carter, whom the American people came to the conclusion is not "nice" in the required sense, under the American system cannot be an effective president, but we are now hearing something more startling than that. The implication is that there is very little that could be perpetrated or laid waste in American domestic or foreign policy between now and November 1984 that would make much difference to the outcome of the election.

Those who find this sobering proposition unpalatable have two possible escapes, neither entirely satisfactory. The first is to say that the average American voter who observes all this cannot be expected to share the private view of most politicians and officials in Western Europe - namely that this is almost certainly the most dangerously incompetent American administration since the Second World War. But he is aware that the Conservative promise of cool, profitable, minimal government could hardly be further from fruition. What saves the President from the fate of Jimmy Carter, who was actually more efficient, is the lack of a plausible Democratic opponent - and the national reverberations of an axe wielded on a California ranch by a nice guy in a lumberjack's shirt.

Philip Howard

# Serving for a hole in one

If only I could get rid of the unforgotten error, I should be a champion. The service is going better this summer. Well, put it this way: there are marginally fewer double faults, and the in-swinging first service delivered with a stiff arm and a hideous grimace has occasionally touched the line of the backhand court, and crashed into the net like a startled pheasant. But the backhand has developed a nervous and pitiful scowl that lobs the ball gently up towards the net and the volleys have been flying off the wood in whimsical directions like splinters in a sawmill.

The trouble about having a mother who won a Wimbledon doubles championship is that one thinks that tennis ought to come naturally by birthright, without coaching or practice. Every summer after watching the professionals at Wimbledon make it look easy, I think I am going to be a champion at last this year. Then on holiday I get out on the court, and fantasy give way to reality and 0-40, set point, was out? Dammit.

Mind you, I blame the tools, like any bad workman. The racket is an obsolete pre-war make called "the Improved Phosphorane". It has lost a string or two at the edges, and has been wadded by the Scotch with 50 summer into a lopsided and sinister irregularity like a grinning face. The court was home-made in 1931, when news of this strange new game had penetrated darkest Ayrshire, and everybody who was anybody in the county suddenly had to have a tennis court. The qualifications of a fine gentleman are to eat à la mode, drink champagne, dance gigs, and play at tennis. - Thomas Shadwell in the seventeenth century. They are still trying up here in Ayrshire, without much success.

Our rude forefathers oriented the court directly east-west so that the sun flashes between the Scotch first directly into the eyes of the server at almost any time of day. Double fault again? I cannot stand it. They surfaced it with the porous chipboard granite that they used for the hill roads around here. This gives a sporting bounce that can turn a forehand at full stretch into a

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

# Mugging: what is the truth?

To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and unrounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderson, Chief constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

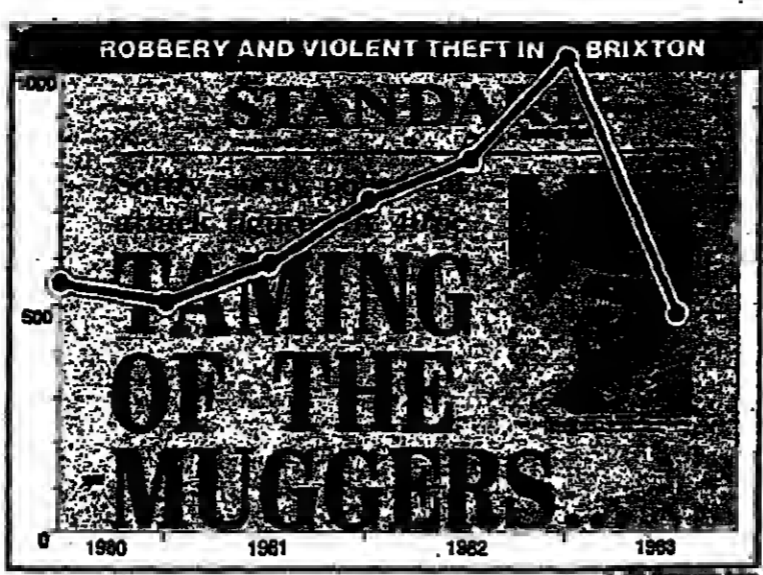
Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as robbery and "other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers. "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton", said one.

So far, the more moderate local organizations represented on the Lambeth Police Consultative Group have endorsed the police optimism and are eager customers for crime figures which they are now given once a month. The black youths who continue to distrust the police and such committees remain, as before, on the outside.

Crime figures should be handled very gingerly. Mugging generates more political heat than any other crime, and is at the same time one of the most difficult to count precisely. Legally, there is no such thing, and the word is loosely used to refer to a host of different classifications which policemen and academics have used to sift crime reports and statistics. For the purpose of the most detailed internal analyses, Scotland Yard's G10 statistical branch defines mugging as "the offence of robbery of personal property in the open when there is no previous association between the offender and victim." (The standard definition of robbery automatically implies the use or threat of force.)

When senior officers wish to refer to mugging, they point to the



statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatch. This crudity inflated the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone.

"The Yard blames black muggers", said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with "other-mugging robbery and theft subtracted" - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local head of the CID, Chief Superintendent Ray Adams, is sure that the "middle band" of robberies - street robberies - is the one that has fallen as a result of new tactics in the area which include "targeted" surveillance of likely locations and suspects, more officers on the streets, and close attention to community cooperation. "It's an opportunistic crime and we've cut down the opportunities," he said this week.

One kind of crime in Brixton, and the rest of Lambeth, have remained at much the same level as before, suggesting that the special attention given to street robbery recently may have had real effect. Where the figures stay down will depend what lies behind the drop. Street robbers have sometimes turned out to be few in number but very active: a handful of people may commit dozens of offences. If the right handful have been caught, the effect on the statistics can be long lasting. If however extra policemen on the street are simply deterring robbers who are waiting for quieter

times, keeping up the deterrent means keeping up the policing level. Since the end of last year, L division has enjoyed the services of 93 extra men and also benefited from the transfer of men to "home beat" duties from other jobs. The local commander, Mr Alex Maronch, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake."

Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbour.

There are more general reasons for scepticism in the face of crime figures. Academic studies have shown that the crimes which are reported are a fraction of those actually committed. The studies differ on the size of the "dark figure" of unreported crime, estimates ranging from five to 15 times the reported rate. Some crime "rises" appear to reflect only a rise in the number of crimes which the police are told about. A recent Home Office study suggested that during the 1970s the rate of burglary stayed

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies, which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening, others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were occasionally caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wider misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established inquisitive police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scarman debate inside the police about crime strategies.

When Scarman's post-riot prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime", said the *Daily Mirror*; and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scarman had undermined the police's ability to act decisively. All this has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Eassey, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountable auditing?"

# The kid glove general sitting on a powder keg

Karachi was upper-class and well educated. Her hair was cut short and the dupatta which she wore in deference to the Islamic dress code, was screwed up around her shoulders like a college scarf. She was from Lahore, always a cosmopolitan city. It is the principal city of the Punjab, Pakistan's richest province.

Lahore holds the key to the future of Pakistan. The disturbances in Sind are distressing to the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq, but they can be controlled. But if the Punjab were to rise as well, General Zia would be doomed.

The woman sat in her lawyer's office, sipping a delicately flavoured jasmine tea. Her husband, one of the Punjab's leading of the Tehrik-i-Islah, is in jail. The name of the party translates as "Movement for Unity", and it is one of the eight banned political parties forming the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which - on August 14, Pakistan's independence day, launched a campaign of civil disobedience, aimed at ending martial law, restoring the 1973 constitution and forcing immediate elections.

In a pre-emptive snoop, the martial law authorities locked away the great majority of the leadership of all the dissident and officially "defunct" parties, an action which has proved remarkably effective. "People keep ringing up", the woman complained. "They are enthusiastic, they want to go out and court arrest, but they don't know who to give their names to."

General Zia's regime has followed up the pre-emptive arrests with shows of force wherever demonstrators have turned out on the

streets; but generally it has shown, great restraint. Lathi charges have often been conducted by policemen at walking pace, intimidating the crowds by banging their long, iron-shod canes on the road or walls, but without actually breaking heads. Police shootings, a common enough event in the sub-continent, have taken place only where property was being destroyed and life threatened.

A rapidly mounting death toll, and the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators.

Baluchistan and North-West Frontier also feel oppressed by the central government. But the Baluch and the Pathans have not risen like the Sindhis. These two provinces are



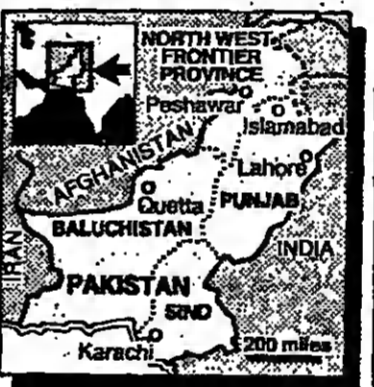
Zia: arrests then restraint

much more remote and sparsely inhabited, and the MRD leadership was caught wrong-footed at the start of the civil disobedience campaign by an open split between the ancient "Frontier Gandhi", Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who leads the National Democratic Party, and its partner, the Pakistan People's Party formerly led by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Partly because of this and other splits, and because of the extent of the government preparations, many observers have tended to underestimate the ability of the MRD to keep together and to organize an extended campaign of agitation.

To give the campaign credibility, the leaders of the movement, and particularly of the Pakistan People's Party, the dominant force in the MRD, have had to work all out to build up momentum.

The initial impetus was given by a skilfully organized mass demonstration at the tomb of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah,



on independence day, when there would be many people on the streets and away from work anyway. That momentum has been kept up by the *saraidari* - the landed aristocracy - working to keep their leadership of the popular movements.

But the campaign now needs another nudge to keep it moving. The trade unions are standing on the sidelines before deciding how to react. Organized labour has been kept more or less quiet recently by one or two large wage settlements. Those to benefit include all government servants, a piece of bribery that may well cost a good deal in inflation later but removes a present possible cause of their anger.

President Zia has been lucky with the weather too. Good monsoon rains have dampened demonstrators' ardour, and the floods have given them plenty to do at home protecting their crops and houses.

And even in Sind, the regime's policy of restraint, which allowed the first day's demonstration to go off virtually unopposed by the security forces, and which has still prevented the imposition of curfews of however limited scope, may have helped damp down the revolt.

But the fuse has been lit. Of course, fuses sometimes sputter and go out. All Pakistan is now waiting and watching to see whether this one has sputtered or whether it will ignite an explosion of popular resentment against six years of military government.

Michael Hamlyn

# How Poland's silver screen has lost its glitter

Warsaw. It is 8pm, the cinema booking office has been shut for half an hour - "sold out", say the notice - and inside the first mind-deadening takes from Film-Kronika, Poland's answer to Pathé News, are beginning to roll. Outside, touts offer tickets with a hefty mark-up to the waiting crowd, and cinema attendants, who have a special ticket allocation, negotiate privately with young couples fretting about missing the main feature film.

This is *She-Wolf*, the latest in a wave of horror films that include titles such as *Demons* and *Shivers*, produced by the Silesian studios. It stars some good actors, notably Stanislaw Brydygant, but to no avail. It is clear after three minutes that this is truly a bad film. Women turn into wolves, teeth are bared, eyeballs roll or pop out of their sockets, blood and tedium flow in equal quantities. The film is very popular.

Some Polish critics say Poland's cinema has entered its worst crisis since the war, a crisis that has both economic and political roots. It is a smaller, more sharply defined,

model of what is happening in the country at large. In 1981, when Andrzej Wajda won a prize at Cannes for his *Man of Iron*, 41 feature films were produced in Poland; in 1983-84 only 20 to 25 will be made. This is partly a financial dilemma; equipment is outdated, new cameras and video equipment are needed but everything requires more hard currency than the film industry has. It does not even have many zloties. Thirty-one cinemas closed in 1981, 53 last year.

Audiences are smaller. In an attempt to attract people back to the cinema, the Poles are treated to a staple of historical and costume dramas, comedies and horror films. Some money is spent on Western films - *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Empire Strikes Back* are both showing in the capital - but only those guaranteed to draw the crowds and that do not ideologically offend are shown. The chairman of the television authority has decided to close down the whole of the second channel - there is now no choice of viewing - because of technical

shortages, but as a result the natural testing ground for film-makers has disappeared.

The nub of the problem, however, is political. Andrzej Wajda, who is finishing a film about a Polish prisoner-of-war who is executed after falling in love with a German woman in wartime Germany, is the Polish film industry's biggest earner of hard currency. This is because his films are internationally acclaimed. But his *Man of Iron* - about the birth of Solidarity - cannot be shown in Poland and Wajda himself was edged into resigning from the presidium of the Film-makers' Union. He has also been dismissed as a studio chief. That means the industry's biggest earner has been denied any decisive say in the moulding of Polish film strategy.

The best example of how standards of excellence are being subordinated to political expediency came last year with a decision not to show a film by Ryszard Bugajski entitled *The Interrogation*. It depicted a woman, played by Krystyna Janda, who was arrested in the 1950s on trumped-up charges

and was brutally interrogated. It is essentially an historical film about a particularly dark period of Polish experience. According to a secret transcript of a meeting held in the Ministry of Culture after the showing of the film, most of Bugajski's peers praised its artistic quality but warned that "a film of such passion will evoke great passions in return". This was a damning criticism: anything that could stir up political emotions has been eyed from cultural life.

The result is that Poland's most talented film directors - Wajda, Krystof Zanussi, Jerzy Skolimowski - work as best they can abroad and the crisis of the country's cinema deepens. At home a commission including a director, a cameraman and a critic has been set up to recommend how the industry can be made profitable again. Film-makers and audiences are hoping that the commission not only comes up with appropriate answers but also asks the right questions.

Roger Boyes

# THE TIMES DIARY

## No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menendez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of a contemporary photocopy at £19.95 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Luemburg Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's caravan and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's foot door?", Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnoop in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

## Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters. Watney Mann and the British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Drought come from Morlaix. Holsten Diet Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and, though they thus pay less duty, their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoured and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll drink to that.

In California, a PHScoop reports, there is a French restaurant next door to a dealer in gemstones. They are jointly called *Chic-by-Jewel*.

## Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His literary executor, by Lynn Kramer, presided for years behind the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has brought Siggy, as old customers know him, to Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

## Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A hee-pecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."

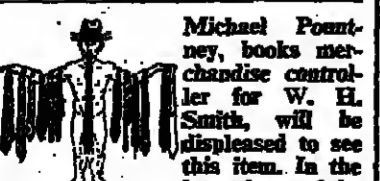
BARRY FANTONI



"Bat darling, they sell perfectly good hamburgers at Padstow"

## Best of Spike

Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailbag in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large dustbin. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went to her Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. Your semi-civil servant, Spike. Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncomradely they were. "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."



Michael Pomzney, books-mechandise controller for W. H. Smith, will be displeased to see this item in the latest issue of the *WHS* paper, *Newspack*. Pomzney explains to an offended manager that it was only *decided* to stock the book *101 Uses for the Unemployed*, from which my illustration comes, because it would be "news" if they did not. "If we were not to buy it," Pomzney argues, "a lot more attention and sales would be drawn to the book than would otherwise happen". So instead they plan to "sell it but do nothing particular to promote it". And still they get attention. PHS

حکومت اسلامی





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# M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgment that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence. It simultaneously warned Colonel Gaddafi that he should permit a peaceful settlement now rather than risk greater loss of face after a direct clash develops between French and Libyan troops.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the president's reluctance to discuss it issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being

properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissène Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claustre. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washing-

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that "French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that "the Americans have been much taken up with us; yes, very much".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarme policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonialist venture", a Vietnam-Chad-style.

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table. The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

# FAR AND FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

Overcrowded and ancient as they are, British prisons would rank respectably high in any Good Jails Guide compiled for the information of the cosmopolitan convict. At least in principle they accept the proposition that criminals are sent to prison as a punishment rather than for punishment, and that gratuitous harsh treatment is not an acceptable means of promoting a policy of deterrence. Prisons reflect the attitudes of the societies around them, and conditions that may appear rugged but humane to an Asian peasant may well seem intolerably rigorous to a western tourist who has been foolish enough to dabble in drugs. To the shared physical hardship is added the isolation of unfamiliarity with language and customs, and separation from friends and family. In some countries so little regard is paid to prisoners' rights that they are in constant danger of physical violence or untreated illness.

The simple individual remedy, of course, is not to get into trouble. But as international travel becomes easier the number of criminals who land themselves in prisons far from home is likely to increase. Such cases and the sympathy they sometimes arouse can become a significant irritant to good relations between countries, and

even a source of prejudice. The problem is complicated by the fact that sentences as well as conditions vary widely, according to how seriously different societies view each offence. This has been the chief stumbling-block to the development of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of prisoners to their own countries, which was signed yesterday by Britain.

The drugs trade provides some of the most difficult cases. A number of countries near the sources of the illicit drug trade routes have introduced heavy penalties at the urging of the western countries which are the main markets. They might not unreasonably accuse western countries of discrimination when they call for severity, while urging leniency for their own citizens. But equally it is difficult for a country where possession of soft drugs is a minor offence to make a citizen serve a very long sentence for it, imposed by a foreign court.

The only kind of agreement that is likely to be acceptable must allow for a good deal of give and take. The Council of Europe's convention is based on the principle that all three parties - the sentencing state, the prisoner's homeland and the prisoner himself - should agree

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant - for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

# FLIGHT PATH TO THE LAW COURTS

British Airways makes its first move in court today in its attempt to get a legal ruling against the Civil Aviation Authority. The authority has granted British Midland Airways a licence to run a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast in competition with British Airways' service. Midland is already challenging BA on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles and has taken away a third of its market. Another airline, Dan-Air, has predatory eyes on BA's Heathrow-Manchester shuttle. The competition is threatening BA's domestic profitability. It wants to stop the rot - by stopping the competition.

The 1980 Civil Aviation Act requires the CAA when considering applications for licences to have regard "to the effect on existing air transport services provided by British airlines" of authorizing any new service. The airline argues that if the CAA

had had regard to the fact that more duplication of shuttle services would push BA's domestic services into deficit it could not reasonably have authorized it. But the courts usually take a lot of persuading to substitute their own view for that of a statutory body in these "duty-to-have-regard-to" cases. It is a long-shot law suit, a measure of BA's lack of confidence that if it took the normal route of appeal, which is to the Secretary of State, its profits would weigh more heavily with that umpire than the benefits to the customer of a spot of competition.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, vigorously defends his recourse to law. "It is my job," he has told *The Times*, "to protect my business, and because it happens to be owned by the taxpayer that does not mean that I am not going to seek the protection the law offers me. As far as I am concerned I operate

British Airways as if it was in the private sector. While I try to be fair, I do not intend to go round being kind to my competitors."

British Airways almost is in the private sector. Lord King's task is to put the nationalized airline into suitable shape for the stockmarket. The irony of this latest twist in its fortunes cannot be lost on him. The virtue of privatization is that it imparts the stimulus and discipline of a fully competitive context. That is why it is done. In order to prepare itself for the salutary plunge (by inter alia preserving the profitability of its domestic operations) the airline goes to law to suppress competition, competition which is the object of the whole exercise. And its chairman justifies the move by invoking the ethos of the private sector. There is more to privatization than meets the eye.

# Vetting job applicants

From Ms Marie Stanton  
Sir, The National Council for Civil Liberties has for many years advised job applicants who have been victims of the "monitoring systems" referred to in your article (page 1, August 15). Highly sensitive personal information about political affiliation, honesty, sexual orientation and mental health is passed between employers and through central agencies.

The individual concerned does not have the right to check whether the information is accurate, and sometimes it is not. This information transfer can and does ensure that these persons are unable to obtain employment not because of any lack of ability to do the work or

proven record of disruption but because of sometimes erroneous or speculative information about their private or political activities.

That personal information collected about an individual should be accurate, obtained lawfully, relevant to the purpose to which it was collected (e.g. job performance) and not disclosed in a matter incompatible with that purpose are some of the principles set out in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which the Government hopes to ratify when the Data Protection Bill passes through its remaining stages in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Bill in its present form will not safeguard people who lose jobs through

inaccurate and irrelevant information. Many of these records are held manually and therefore are not covered by the Bill. The Data Protection Registrar will be charged with enforcing the Act. However, with only 20 staff to deal with tens of thousands of computerised personal information systems he will be unable to be an effective monitor.

Thus a Bill which purports to protect personal privacy will not prevent the increasing use of "monitoring" or "blacklisting" systems and increased intelligence gathering about political beliefs and opinions as we enter 1984.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIE STANTON,  
Legal Officer,  
National Council for Civil Liberties,  
21 Tabard Street, SE1,  
August 18.

# Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)  
Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals contained too many mischievous half-truths and guesses to answer individually without missing the heart of the genuine dilemma that has always faced political parties, and which is far more acute when social and economic conditions are as serious as they currently are.

This dilemma is simply stated: should a political party hide or fudge the truth as it sees it for the sake of electoral success, and then hope that the public will not notice or will not mind if it says one thing and does another? Or should it present its analysis and its programme, even if unpopular, and seek to persuade the electors of its validity?

Roy Hattersley, for instance, now appears to subscribe to the former view. He regularly intones that Labour "has a moral duty to win next time", i.e., any package that can remove Mrs Thatcher from office deserves Labour support. Bernard Levin, and a number of other commentators, also believe that this view is paramount and that any debate on strategy and priorities risks offending the tender susceptibilities of our gentle and delicate electors.

For every Bernard Levin enjoying a surreptitious tendency towards populism there are a thousand electors telling canvassers that politicians are all the same saying one thing before an election and another after it. If Mr Levin has his way that electoral cynicism will be given an additional boost by Liberals and will further delay the day when this country grapples with the enormity of our present crises.

My view is that the public desires consistency, respects integrity, and resents being conned. The electorate rejected the left-Labour alternative at the election not because it was highly ideological but because it neither rang true, nor appeared to be the question for a party as well as for the commentators and for the public, is the relevance of its ideology out of its existence.

Those many thousands of people who join the Liberal Party and who give their skills, energy and resources without visible reward are by definition not individuals who are likely to sit and wait for a party "line" to be passed down from on high - however much respect and affection they have for David Steel. They tend to be interested in the formulation and promotion of ideas and there is an appropriate structure

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

for the debating and testing of such ideas.

No party in its right mind deliberately stresses those parts of its programme that are the least attractive, but equally no party with any integrity pretends that there are solutions to our current malaise that do not require sacrifice on the part of the public.

It is not a question of a handful of Liberal policies that Mr Levin so cheerfully caricatures. It is an approach to society; the kinds of values that are worth while and possible in the final years of this century; and the policies by which they can be achieved. These are the welcome and more legitimate targets for Mr Levin's incisive mind and blunt pen. Any lesser target is much too easy.

The difference between Bernard Levin and the working politician is that Mr Levin can write his commentary and then, if he so wishes, walk away from the problem. The MP or the councillor does not have that luxury; she or he has to find answers to the problems.

One takes Mr Levin's advice very seriously but I only wish that it was as thoroughly thought through as his writing on Wagner.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT,  
House of Commons,  
August 24.

# Universities unable to pull full weight

From Professor J. M. Thomas, FRS  
Sir, The authors of the Merrison report on the support of university scientific research, June, 1982, estimated that two thirds of the nation's fundamental research is carried out in the universities. This is a far bigger proportion than in any other country. Yet the amount of money allocated for it is meagre compared to the scale, success and wealth-creating influence of that work.

In 1978-79 the total British university equipment grant was estimated (Merrison report, p23) as £27m, which is less than the annual sums allocated for the same purpose by single, major US scientific companies. It is to be compared with the total UK expenditure on research and development for 1978 of £3,500m, of which the Government provided about half, and with the £40m that Hoechst, the West German pharmaceutical company, has just invested in a new research department in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In the light of this situation it is ludicrous to claim, as did your leader (August 12) that the dual-support system for university research is breaking down because the universities are "skimping on research". The money is simply not there for the dual-support system to function properly.

In 1974-75 Government expenditure on equipment to the universities was savagely cut. Although some improvement has occurred since, the effects of that cut are still felt: by 1980-81 it had led to an

accumulated deficit on the equipment grant of about £220m. The universities do not have it within their power properly to replace obsolescent equipment; still less are they in a position, without outside aid, vigorously to pursue important new developments.

For example, a team of scientists in this university has recently explored a new magnetic resonance technique that is likely to serve several branches of physical science. The equipment needed to exploit it and train new graduates in its use costs £200,000, more than the university can afford to allocate to a single group. It will not be possible, therefore, to develop this work unless the Science and Engineering Research Council provides the bulk of the equipment.

Equipment costs of this magnitude are very common; they are an essential ingredient of modern scientific activity, from anatomy to zoology. Many of these costs should not be met by the SERC, the universities should possess adequate resources to support work and replace facilities that they themselves deem important. It is in the nation's interest that more funds are made available for properly equipping our universities. That was one of the recommendations of the Merrison report.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. THOMAS,  
Department of Physical Chemistry,  
University of Cambridge,  
Lensfield Road,  
Cambridge,  
August 18.

# CDC in Philippines

From the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation  
Sir, CDC's primary aim is to take part in those projects which will be the most effective in raising the standards of living in the underdeveloped parts of the world. Mindanao is very undeveloped and a number of its inhabitants near the starvation line. The oil palm project to which we are committed to lending money will make a significant contribution to the prosperity of that part of Mindanao in which it is situated.

We have taken every conceivable measure to ensure that human rights are respected as far as the workers on the project are concerned. The Lost Command no longer has any role in the security of the estate. We have our own man resident in the area who is monitoring conditions at the project.

The opportunity to get a regular

job with a decent wage has more than the material benefit for those employed. The fact that there is benefit to the country as a whole in the productive use of land which has been largely uncultivated must be in the long-term interests of the Philippines people.

CDC's reputation has been built upon development projects in the agricultural sector which have benefited both the people individually and the economies of the countries in which we operate - and also, incidentally, the British taxpayer.

We have been operating profitably for more than 20 years. Letters such as Tom Clarke's (August 24) do not help either the people of Mindanao or the reputation of CDC.

Yours faithfully,  
KINDERSLEY, Chairman,  
Commonwealth Development Corporation,  
33 Hill Street, W1,  
August 24.

# Defence review

From Colonel James Ferguson  
Sir, Your leader, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) does the subject less than justice. To discuss the defence of the central region of Allied Command Europe without a mention of US forces, or of the place of air reinforcements, or of the Allied air forces makes the analysis somewhat incomplete.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But it has to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

# Body and mind

From Mr Anthony Young  
Sir, Your unnecessarily asstringent editorial, "Physician heal thyself" (August 10) does science an injustice by blaming the failure of modern orthodox medicine on the "scientific approach". It is the obsession with the method and the technology with subsequent loss of contact with the patient at a personal level that is at fault, not the "scientific approach" itself.

A great harm will be done if, in our haste to espouse the currently unorthodox, we lose sight of the fundamental scientific principle that the methods and results of any form of therapy must be carefully scrutinized to see if they are effective. Without these checks unqualified quacks and qualified charlatans will be the ones that benefit, not the patients.

Doctors are cautious of the "unorthodox" because they like first to see proper evidence that these treatments help patients - as I believe many of them do. Surely that caution should be encouraged, not derided.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY YOUNG,  
The Consulting Rooms,  
York House,  
199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1,  
August 11.

# Pieces of silver?

From Mr John George Bull  
Sir, The current vogue for offering large financial rewards for information leading to a prosecution appears to be welcomed by the police, particularly in relation to the search for the Brighton child molester.

One wonders if the implications have been fully appreciated. There is a strong possibility that someone who should have given information to the police last week as a public duty will receive a huge reward for his or her procrastination.

Furthermore, in future incidents of this type there will be a temptation for vital witnesses to withhold information until they feel the accumulating bait has reached its peak.

Yours faithfully,  
J. BULL,  
Flat 20a East,  
High Street,  
Keynsham,  
Bristol, Avon.

# Dumping at sea

From Dr L. E. J. Roberts, FRS  
Sir, Mr David McTaggart (August 16) criticises me for defending the position adopted by successive UK/British Governments on radioactive waste disposal in the deep ocean. In fact, this position is soundly based on technical and scientific observation and analysis.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "gaping holes" of the careful international agreements that have been made. Pessimistic assumptions were made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself requires the proposals for change should be supported by fresh

# Islington finances

representative on the editorial board. Mr Skinner replied on June 21 and told Mr Cunningham that, on the contrary, financial assistance to the co-operative would be made subject to a number of conditions, including one that there would be "no political party having representation on the editorial and advisory board of the *Islington News*".

Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 18 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision". This is now the policy of the council.

Lord Harris is misinformed about the nature of the grants to the co-operative. The council is giving a grant of £17,000 over the two years towards the cost of premises, which

# Athletic hybrid

From Mr P. R. M. Burrows  
Sir, Since it looks like a word derived properly from the Greek, "tetrathoo" (letter, August 23) must be, I suppose, marginally less objectionable than the obviously hybrid "quadrathoo" used in your report.

Both words are, however, falsely derived from "marathon" in much the same way as that in which my own pet hate "triphobious" is derived from "amphibious".

Why not use the established and acceptable word "tetrathoo" instead of either?

Yours faithfully,  
P. R. M. BURROWS,  
Malt House,  
Kenning,  
Kent,  
August 23.

# Mermaid Theatre sale

From Mr Nicholas Reynolds  
Sir, The announcement on your front page (August 12), of the proposed sale of the Mermaid Theatre is distressing.

More than 15 years ago members of staff and I attempted to set up a "Theatre Club" in the City of London School, minutes down the road from Puddle Dock. This was no easy task in a school whose catchment area was the entire commuter belt and a reluctance to stay on after hours to enjoy the opportunities of Loodoo's theatres was marked.

Bernard Miles gave us all possible help and encouragement. At the Mermaid we learnt what the art of the theatre really might be. We had high hopes of increasing cooperation between our exciting theatrical neighbour and the City's school.

Today, the move of the school to the muddy hole immediately adjoining Puddle Dock has still not been effected; and the Mermaid is to be sold. How do the City Fathers expect to educate their sons?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS REYNOLDS,  
2 Danube Street,  
Edinburgh.

# Wind of class

From Sir Ronald Preston  
Sir, In his amusing article on "Class warfare on the open road" today (August 2), in which he turns a psychoanalytical eye on the names of cars, your Correspondent finds himself plainly snuffed by the origin of the name "Passat". To him it is a "total mystery" to which he adds the gratuitous suggestion that perhaps it is the name "of an expensive resort in the Atlas Mountains known only to the rich Germans".

A glance at a German-English dictionary would have quickly dispelled the mystery for it gives Passat as the word in German for "trade wind", a name which could well have been included in the "male macho" list of car names.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD PRESTON,  
Beeston Hall,  
Beeston St Lawrence, Norwich,  
Norfolk.

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2 Danube Street,  
Edinburgh.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE August 25 The Queen was represented by Colonel William Beam...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. C. Clark and Miss V. J. Charteris The engagement is announced between Peter Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs F. G. Clark...

Birthdays today

Kenneth Barnes, 61; Mr Frank Cole, 70; Major-General N. L. Cole, 74; Mr Christopher Isherwood, 79; Sir Ian McGregor, 61...

Widow and Grammar School

Richardson Term begins on August 1. Term ends on December 21. The twentieth anniversary meeting will be held on September 10-11...

Marriage

Mr H. B. Digby and Mrs S. R. McLaren The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby...

Church news

Appointments Mr A. H. Allen, Curate of Ebbw Vale, diocese of Bath and Wells...

Latest wills

Access leaves £65,345 Daphne Heard, whose real name was Mrs Delia Barnes, of Clifton, Bristol...

Resignations and retirements

Mr R. J. Joyce, R.E.C. and Mrs M. E. Bruce-Kerr The resignation is announced between Richard Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Joyce...

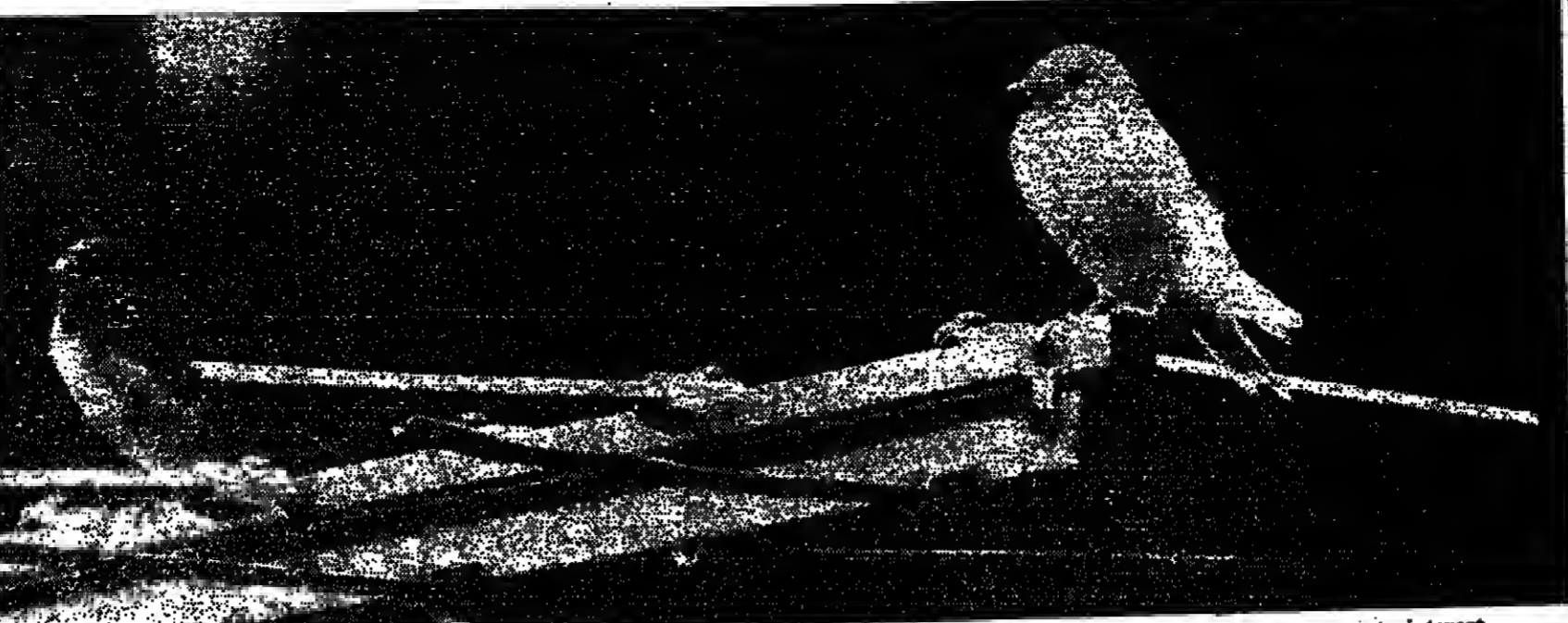
More cash and students for polytechnics

Six polytechnics will be rewarded with more money and extra students at the start of the 1984 academic year...

Science report

Forgers tempted by inflation

As inflation continues, it is not just the usual objects of art that rise in value, but also early scientific instruments...



Rare bird: A young white swallow in a barn at a farm near Ringwood, Hampshire. A pure albino is sufficiently uncommon to interest ornithologists...

Tory clones claim by teachers

The Conservative Party has been caught trying to impose an education policy on its MPs, and the MPs are exposed as "clones" in a survey published by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association...

Academics concerned by new technology research

The Government is planning to spend more than £100,000 supporting a series of academic research projects to find ways of encouraging the acceptance of new technology...

Paper at fault over 'IRA' man

Newspaper conjecture that a man was a terrorist with IRA links was reasonable but should not have been published as fact, the Press Council ruled today...

Spectacular cabinet goes on sale

A previously lost cabinet and four pieces of bedroom furniture by the Scottish modern design pioneer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, have been found in Canada and are to be auctioned...



Duke's memorial visit

The Duke of Gloucester unveiled a memorial to Second World War airmen at King's Cliffe airfield, near Peterborough, yesterday...

Warning on Channel 4 advertising

As hopes rose yesterday for an early settlement of the dispute over fees paid to actors appearing in Channel 4 and TV-am commercials...

GLC threatens court fight

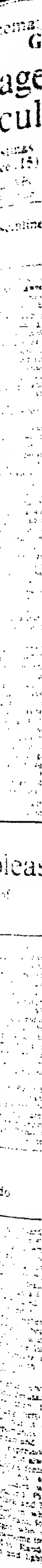
The Greater London Council is again preparing to go to court if Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refuses to allow the council to amend the capital's development plan...

Farmers' leader opposes EEC on cuts

The president of the National Union of Farmers, has told the Minister of Agriculture that EEC agricultural policy plans are highly damaging to the industry and to the national interest...

OBITUARY MR J. CLEVELAND BELLE Influence on textile design

Mr James Cleveland Belle, widely regarded in the British fashion and textile industries as the most potent, creative and innovative force of the early post-war years, died on August 21. He was the first director of the first design centre set up in the United Kingdom...



THE ARTS

صكنا من الأصل

Cinema: David Robison in London and Geoff Brown in Edinburgh
Savage and elusive study of cultural oppositions

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence (15)
Camden Plaza: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Lords of Discipline (15)
Plaza 2

Sir Laurens Van der Post calls Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence "this great and deeply moving film, the only war film I have seen that penetrates deep into the origins and meaning of war"; and, since Sir Laurens wrote the original stories on which the film is based...

Nagisa Oshima's films, but especially The Ceremony and Empire of the Senses, have all looked critically at Japanese character, society and tradition...

The setting is a prisoner-of-war camp in Java in 1942. The four main characters are cast in quadrilateral opposition. On the Japanese side are the camp commandant, Captain Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto)...

From first sight, Captain Yonoi recognises both a spiri-

mal and physical attraction to Celliers the two young men share the same kind of purity and innocence, and also a sense of guilt. Celliers is haunted by a childhood betrayal of his young brother, Yonoi was away from Japan at the time of an officers' revolt...

The quadrangle offers a valid premise from which to explore the confrontation of opposing philosophies and wills and the human attractions which can remain stronger than national conflicts. In the event, though, the exploration is confused by an excess of incident - beatings, crucifixes, fests, humiliations, challenges between captives and captor that look like the conventional stuff of POW drama...

It is hardly tea-shirt weather in Edinburgh, but they are being worn just the same - the red ones scream "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" (Oshima's film opened the festival last Saturday)...

But the festival's undoubted highlight so far has been Samuel Fuller's magnificent White Dog, mostly hidden away by its bemused American distributor, Paramount, since completion in 1981...

The true provocation of Fuller's film lies

Oshima clearly first intended something far more open. We are prepared for the theme: the opening scene is the punishment of a Korean guard for having sexual relations with a young Dutch prisoner. It is evident again later in one of the most striking scenes of the film: Yonoi is submitting the whole camp to exceptional brutality...

The film is about cultural oppositions, and ironically cultural difference and confusion have, in the end, fogged the sense of it. Oshima worked with an English script writer, Paul Mayersberg, who talks about their collaboration in an interview published in a new magazine which the British Film Institute has connected out of its old and useful Monthly Film Bulletin...

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

White Dog tosses us back and forth between the dog's fierce stare, the implacable eyes of the black animal trainer attempting the dog's re-education and a cheezy, almost comical, simple technique generates immense emotional power. Fuller also pulls off several virtuoso thriller sequences, outlandishly concluding one of the dog's attacks with an out-of-camera manning before a church stained-glass window representing St Francis...

Documentaries and independent films abound here, quality, as expected, scowls hour by hour. Friedhelm Brückner's



Celliers (David Bowie) challenges Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto) over the threatened execution of the British C.O. (Jack Thompson)

western characters he decided to "westernize" the script. It is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film does - surprisingly for Oshima - lack any distinctive style, western or eastern.

Bowie as actor is at the best of times unpredictable, clearly always in need of confident direction. This character is a chameleon, responding conscientiously to the needs of the moment (when Yonoi calls him "an evil spirit" he instantly leaps into that role, for instance) but never presenting a clear and consistent face on which we can fix Yonoi's yearning...

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait Phoros of Chaos, looks from the Himalayas himself bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in its own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf Eckardt Bühler and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Uo-American Activities Committee...

impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme to union which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly scooped through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is out to prolong the visio into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of this concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was desperately undistinguished. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashingly obvious direction.

Nicholas Kenyon
Vasary/Hirst/Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslova, the woman behind both the Vixen and the Second String Quartet.

performance of the Diary of One who Disappeared by Philip Langridge, Linda Hirst and Tamas Vasary which was utterly compelling in its fusion of meticulous, minutely observed detail and vibrant unpredictability.

It was a pity that the opportunity was missed to exploit the hall's facilities and grant for once Janáček's wish that this drama of dream, seduction and surrender "be sung in semi-darkness, if possible with reddish lighting"; and a pity, too, that the performers did not risk even looser, more eloquent pauses at crucial dramatic points.

But this was a performance of subtly flickering, volatile emotions, rather than of overtly dramatic strokes: in Mr Langridge's voice, passio would quiver through a portamento, tenderness blend into harmonic change, and muscle flex to the full only to carry the force of Janáček's arching "melodic curves of speech", as in his final fierce and resilient top C.

Linda Hirst's was a strange and strong-edged vocal characterization, with the three off-stage voices (Sarah Leonard, Judith Rees and Joyce Jarvis) providing, in their perfectly judged acoustic balance, a haunting dissonance right at the drama's heart.

Dialogue, reflection and undercurrent were indivisibly shared in Mr Vasary's piano playing.

Hilary Finch

Samuel Fuller's four-legged time-bomb

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

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explorations into the world's remotest corners present a varied spectacle. In Amakane (1979), his intrepid crew visit an isolated Indonesian tribe with pleasant gifts of friendship and medicine; alas, they also bring the dreaded zoom lens. In Split, made three years later, the camera's prancing are happily kept to a minimum: the modest lives of monks and farmers from the western Himalayas are relayed with uncluttered force and much scenic beauty.

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait Phoros of Chaos, looks from the Himalayas himself bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in its own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf Eckardt Bühler and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Uo-American Activities Committee...

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Vasary/Hirst/Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall
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On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a

Theatre
Unpleasantly promising start

The Killing of Mr Toad
King's Head

The wistful charm of The Wind in the Willows suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gooderson's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppyground", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal, an anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy.

Dreaming of Mole, Ratty and Badger after her husband's death, Elspeth (Deborah Norton) murmurs that they are so like him. Toad is the exception; surprisingly enough, Toad was Alastair. Instead of the testy

middle-aged playboy of the E. H. Shepherd drawings, Rupert Graves bounds on and fills the stage with pop-eyed youthful effervescence.

So his death and not his father's is the play's subject. Half-blind from birth, mother-smothered and worshipped as a genius, bribed for love by both parents separately, he found the outside world a nasty shock - Rugby and Eton were torture, he repeatedly failed elementary exams at Oxford and met his death at 20 under a train.

But, apart from ominous suggestions of a childhood death-wish, the tragedy unfolds very late in the evening. Most of the time Alastair is bouncing insufferably about while Old Inferiority, as he calls his father (Robert Austin), broods unachingly or switches to the other self as Mole for an "Oh my, oh my" or two with John Warner's Ratty (also doubling as Quiller-Couch). Most excru-

ciating of all are the song interludes, retelling the words of Toad ditties or music-hall favourites to make obvious, overstated comments about the home situation and eliciting performances to match. A family calling themselves Minkie, Dino and Mouse hardly need it.

It is an unsuccessful and generally unpleasant piece, but still a promising debut for Mr Gooderson, who is sometimes a clever and interesting writer. Especially in the widowed Elspeth's solo opening scene: Miss Norton stiffens her voice and movements to elderly gruffness with impeccable skill, barking at the postman, grumbling about the price of salmon and dumping her feet in a bowl of water before settling down to read advice to a spiritual friend about contacting her two men on the other side. Laurie Denner's set gives her a dingy conservative living-room whose



Deborah Norton: imitable skill

parquet-pattern lino and dim watercolours have a mustiness you can practically smell.

Anthony Masters

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

LSO/Abbado
Usher Hall

Down at the Botanic Garden, they are playing the whole Ring in the Solti recording, dawn to dusk, to audiences of contemplatives seated in a circle round a pyramid of mirrors. Within the official festival Wagner's centenary was a little more modestly celebrated on Wednesday in a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, beginning less than happily with a bit of performance of the Italian-composed Faust Overture and ending most oddly with the middle act of Lohengrin.

This unaccommodating choice brought us Siegfried Jerusalem for scarcely more than five minutes as a young hero of unwavering voice, but it did allow more opportunity to admire the Telemann of Hermann Weiler, expressively alert and musical, if not always able to ride the LSO's forceful accompaniment of his sour grapes. The two ladies were cross-dressed. Rosalind Flower-right as Elsa in black and Eva Krasova as Otrud in white, which seemed significant, for it was Miss Flowerright who displayed the more awesome lower register while Miss Krasova was all sweetness and light at the top.

However, an enterprise as

cock-eyed as this is not a fair trial of anybody's ability to sing Wagner, and the most dynamic moments came from the orchestra and chorus. The LSO were vigorous in their punctuation of the opening dialogue and made majestic oases later in the act underneath colossal imposing work again, as at Sunday's concert from the Edinburgh Festival Chorus trained by John Currie.

Wagner's companion on this programme was Webern, wisely represented at his loudest by the Six Orchestral Pieces, Op 6, though in the reduced scoring, Mr Abbado presented them as a funeral march wreathed in flowers. All vehemence was rightly suppressed except for a scorching snarl from the brass at the culmination of the march, followed by the percussion in a frenzy of battering. Otherwise the emphasis was on delicacy of phrasing, from solo wind particularly, and perfection of sound, though through it all came too the cold ferocity of the young Webern as seen in a remarkable portrait by Max Oppenheimer included in the Vienna 1900 exhibition.

So far the only music entirely unrelated to the festival's Viennese theme has come in the morning recitals, the first three of which have all included music by Debussy. On Tuesday it was the music of his String Quartet, given a purposely unsophisticated account by the

Delmé Quartet, as if perhaps to merit it a place in the Viennese tradition. Textures were clear and forward, but not sparkling or clever; themes were played in the conversational manner of normal chamber music, not refined into super-exquisite.

The Delmé also included a rarity, Caplet's Cinq fantastiques on Poe's Macabre of the Red Death with solo harp (John Marsh). For as long as I have known of this piece, I have been intrigued. I am intrigued no longer.

Paul Griffiths

Melos Quartet of Stuttgart
Queen's Hall

The Edinburgh Festival's rediscovery of Zemlinsky took another brave step forward yesterday morning when the Melos Quartet from Stuttgart played the third of his four quartets. Composed in 1924, the piece belongs very much to the same period as The Dwarf, seen earlier in the week, and like that opens it is a tale of beauty and the least.

Each of the four movements includes grotesque, stumbling little ideas, or pusillanimous ostinatos along with long melodies that may dance in the sunlight of a clear tonality but

are themselves sublimely free from the shackles of key. Often it turns out too, as it does in Zemlinsky's Second Quartet, that the crabbled motif and the airy line are drawn out of the same pattern of notes: beauty and the beast are one.

That lesson comes over most forcibly in the second movement, a set of variations that begins as a gargoyle scherzo but reaches a much softer, warmer feeling before the carpet is pulled away again and we are left with a low second violin sounding over a mechanical accompaniment in desolation close to Shostakovich's.

There is a similar moment in the finale, entitled "Burleske" and sometimes cleft by the irony Mahler associated with this title. But, whenever the links with other composers, this quartet lives in its own world of silvery shadows, and clearly it is a world in which the Melos feel quite at home: disquiet and trepidation were qualities only of the composition.

In Mozart's fugal-finisied G major Quartet and Schumann's A major they seemed rather to be taking the music back to their place, where the conveniences included supreme confidence, strong inner parts and unquestionable phrasing, but not much of Mozart's levity or Schumann's faintness of spirit.

Paul Griffiths

Northern Sinfonia/ Knussen/Fischer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Robert Saxton's The Ring of Eternity, which was given its first performance at Wednesday's concert, was commissioned not by the BBC but by Oliver Knussen, who conducted it. It is a most beautifully realized vision, suggested by the first lines of Henry Vaughan's poem The World: "I saw Eternity the other night/Like a great Ring of endless light..."

Saxton says he has attempted to translate the details of Vaughan's opening lines into sound, but on a first hearing I was less aware of any literal equivalences than of a piercingly well-imagined paucity of sound, strikingly clear in outline.

The image of a ring seems less apt to describe what happens than that of antiphonal exchange: from the initial laying-out of piano, trumpet solo and wind chorus over strings, the impetus is continually shifted between the string group and the wind group.

Sweeping figurations accumulate power through close imitation (though the effect is not the hypnotic one of Ligeti's similar procedure but that of a positive, dramatic unfolding of each idea), and much play is made with an ecstatic, trill-like passage of thirds.

Over this antiphony are single-line passages for the tuned percussion, and important, strident duets for the pairs of horns and trumpets: in an

impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme to union which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly scooped through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is out to prolong the visio into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of this concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was desperately undistinguished. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashingly obvious direction.

Nicholas Kenyon
Vasary/Hirst/Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslova, the woman behind both the Vixen and the Second String Quartet.

On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a

Concerts in London

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Television
Complex frights

Walter Cronkite, who looks very much like a contemporary version of Big Brother, presented 1964 (BBC1) with that heavily portentous tone which seems typical of American television journalism. He also had his own brand of news-manspeak: "Fame came late to George Orwell... What kind of man gave shape and names to the darkest fears of our age? Certainly a complex man...". And so he went on, adding the usual litany of bad news: Khomzini, Afghanistan, computer banks and torture in South America. Then his own computer produced from the photographs of six dictators a composite portrait of the Orwellian tyrant; the result was the face of a Mexican bandit. We need not fear computers as long as they show no signs of imagination.

As is often the case with American programmes which attempt to deal with Some Important Issues, it was interesting only for the fight which it cast upon contemporary American society. There are now a range of ingenious phrases, for example, which shield bureaucrats from ordinary life. An explosion is referred to as an "energetic disassembly"; one is no longer sacked but "relocated on" or "dehired". This was a programme, however, to be unswitched or derailed.

The sight of the Public Records Office, in Secrets (BBC 1), would have kept Orwellians content for days: here was the next best thing to a Ministry of Truth. Christmas cards sent by M15 officers in 1918 are still classified as secret: perhaps the idea of a "seasonal message" sounded sinister. And researchers there have only just been given access to a dusty confidential file, only to discover that it contained a synopsis from the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The programme attempted, in what was apparently supposed to be a jocular manner, to investigate the general secretiveness of British society and suggested, quite rightly, that most officials enjoy the experience of being entrusted with "confidential" information. It gives them something not to talk about. It seems, by the way, that civil servants really do hang net curtains at the windows of their offices; they are the Brighton landladies of government.

Peter Ackroyd

The Haifa Municipal Theatre presentation of The Soul of a Jew, reviewed on Wednesday by Irving Wardle in Edinburgh, is to play at Riverside Studios from next Monday to Thursday.

Advertisement for RUNNERS, GATE BLOOMSBURY, ANOTHER TIME, The Ploughman's Lunch, GATE MAY FAIR, The KING of comedy.

Advertisement for The GLC Presents PARSIFAL At the Royal Festival Hall, featuring Hans Jürgen Syberberg, starring Reiner Goldberg as Parsifal, 30 August 1983 at 8pm, Admission £2.50, Box office: 01-928 3181.

Advertisement for Jales from HOLLYWOOD, featuring The new play by Christopher Hampton. "A fascinating play about the colony of German writers who found themselves exiled in Tinseltown in the 1940s..." (Michael Billington, Guardian, at the play's premiere in Los Angeles last year). NATIONAL THEATRE (Olivier), Box Office 01 928 2252, Credit Cards 01 928 5933. Low price previews: Tonight, Tomorrow, Mon, Wed at 7.15, Tues at 2.00 & 7.15, Thurs at 7.00, Then Sept 5, 6, 7 (m&e), 14, 15 (Bargain Night), 21, 22, 23, 24 (m&e), 26, 27. Production is at The Bristol Hippodrome Oct 3 to 8.

THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table listing the top 1000 companies in 1982/1983, including names like Shell, BP, and ICI.

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Fraser shares jump 16p

Shares in House of Fraser jumped 16p yesterday to 244p on persistent buying from about five main sources.

One market trader was suggesting that Mr Jack Hayward, the Bahamas-based millionaire, has picked up a further 250,000 Fraser shares taking his total to 2.5 million.

Only the index-linked sector bucked the trend with gains of more than 1p, investors once again attracted by the 3 per cent to 4 per cent return over inflation offered by the sector.

A substantial drop in business volume before the bank holiday weekend gave stock market traders the breathing space needed to steady prices after the sharp fall on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Activity was once again dominated by company news and bid rumours. By the close the FT 100 index showed a marginal gain of 0.8 at 7174.

MARKET REPORT

Fraser shares jump 16p

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Closing Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

News that Gulf is after all to develop its offshore Irish oil field prompted buyers to rush back into Atlantic Resources and Eglinton which have both seen a cut severely.

The mining finance sector saw a little activity yesterday as Consolidated Gold Fields moved up 3p to 268p ahead of figures due in about a fortnight.

The group, which was the subject of secret share-buying sprees three years ago, has been checking out mystery shareholders again. It said all nominees have owned up.

Consolidated's largest shareholder is Miniro, controlled by the South African businessman Mr Harry Oppenheimer, a company which has been accumulating vast amounts of cash.

Wayne Lintott

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 717.4 up 0.6 FT GITS: 79.71 up 0.8 FT All Shares: 456.14 up 1.82 Eargains: 19.701 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 100 up 0.73 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest): 1161.71 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9143.07 down 4.27 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 961.91 down 0.27 Amsterdam: 146.8 down 2.9 Sydney: AO Index: 697.7 down 10.7 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 933.30 down 3.20 Brussels: General Index: 133.45 down 0.42 Paris: CAC Index: 137.7 up 0.3 Zurich: SKA General Index: 283.2 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1 cents Index 84.7 down 0.9 DM 3.9750 FF 11.9750 Yen 368.50 Dollar Index 127.6 up 0.1 DM 2.6365 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.5030 INTERNATIONAL ECU: 0.570857 SDR: 0.692933

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9% Finance houses base rates 10 Discount market loans week fixed 9%-9 1/2 3 month interbank 9%-9 1/2 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9%-10 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4 3 month Fr 15-14 1/2 US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 9 1/2 Treasury long bond 103 1/2% ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.988 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$422.50 pm \$423.26 close \$423.50 £280-280.75 unchanged New York latest: \$423.25 Kruggerand (per coin): \$436-437.50 (£289-290) Sovereigns (new): \$99.75-100.75 (£66-66.75) \*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims: Martin Black, L. M. Ericsson, Exeter Building and Construction, Investment Trust of Guernsey, Miss World Group, Scottish Northern Investment, Wagon Finance, Ward Holdings, Finales Highgate & Job, Raybeck. Economic statistics: None announced.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen House, Newark Street, Liverpool (11.30) Lennon Group, Lord Daresbury Hotel, Daresbury, Warrington, Cheshire (noon) Retapina, Cumberland Road, off Honey-pot Lane, NW9 (11.30) Segomans Group, 185 St Vincent Street, Glasgow (12.00)

Trade figures hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic pressure in the foreign exchange markets yesterday because of the poor July trade figures and recent gloomy forecasts for the economy. Market trading was thin as sterling fell 1.1 cents against the dollar and closed at \$1.5080. Against the German mark, the pound fell below DM4, closing 3.5 pfennings lower on the day at DM3.9750, and it lost 10 centimes against the French franc to Fr11.9750. The pound's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies ended the day 0.9 lower at 84.7. The dollar was on the sidelines after its volatile movements of recent weeks but ended fractionally higher against the mark at DM2.6365 - up 15 points. Lombe International finance is raising a Dm7.5m (£19m), seven-year Eurobond with a yield of 9 per cent, market sources have reported. The bond is priced at par.

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

An about-turn by three institutional shareholders yesterday snatched an expected victory from Mr Robert Maxwell in his battle for control of John Waddington, the monopoly games manufacturer. The three institutions withdrew their acceptances of the £18m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour. News of the about-turn came as Mr Maxwell was ready to declare that he had received more than 50 per cent acceptance, and the bid was therefore unconditional. The three institutions account for 5.5 per cent of Waddington's shares. This holding, together with the support already promised to the

Waddington board from holders of 46.2 per cent makes it impossible for Mr Maxwell to declare his offer unconditional. The most significant change of heart came when the Norwich Union insurance group, which has 4.4 per cent stake, responded to a direct appeal from the Waddington chairman, Mr Victor Watson, and managing director Mr David Perry. The other about-turns came from the Scottish Amicable life insurance company, which has about 0.9 per cent of the shares, and a smaller holder with 0.2 per cent. Scottish Amicable said last night that it had previously accepted the cash alternative but withdrew and "stood at a higher price to parties presu-

ably friendly to the Waddington camp." Later Mr Maxwell said: "The battle is not over yet - people can come undone from their side as well, you know." He intends to extend his share offer today from its present closing date of this afternoon. No decision on the period has been taken but the offer cannot be extended beyond two weeks under takeover rules. The Norwich Union had accepted the BPCC share offer but the Scottish Amicable had opted for the cash alternative which closed last week and cannot be re-opened. Shareholders who accept a takeover bid can withdraw before it is declared unconditional.

Mr Maxwell said: "I regret the withdrawal of acceptances which presumably is largely due to people who accepted the cash offer of 249.5p which they would receive in several weeks' time if the offer goes unconditional. By withdrawing they can get a higher price in the market. It is possible that purchasers in the market will accept the BPCC offer." But Kleinwort Benson, Waddington's advisers, said that it was merely a change of allegiance after a re-appraisal by the shareholders of the company's prospects. Mr Maxwell added: "I have had several Waddington's shareholders complain that they had up to eight telephone calls from the company urging them

to withdraw their acceptances. This borders on harassment." Mr Maxwell's advisers will now lobby hard to get some of the pro-Waddington board shareholders to change their minds. Kleinwort said that Mr Maxwell had no new information to give shareholders, he could not make a new offer under the Takeover Panel's rules and the cash offer had already closed. But the firm admitted that although the battle had "taken a fundamental turn", the fight was not yet over. Waddington has enjoyed the support of two big shareholders, Britannic Assurance and M&G, which account for about a fifth of the shares.

Rescue deal for Capper-Neill

An Arab construction company and British banks have organized a major capital reconstruction of Capper-Neill, a leading manufacturer of process plant, to save the company from an unexpected threat of bankruptcy. But most of the Capper-Neill board, including Mr William Capper, the chairman, will leave the company. Capper-Neill, of St Helens, discussed yesterday that for the year to the end of March it had made a pretax loss of £3.1m after making a pretax profit of £2.75m last year. The company has also had to make extraordinary debts of £20.8m. It lost £700,000 in the first half. The shares fell 1p to 16 1/2p, which notionally capitalizes the company at £15m. The rescue has been organized by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, which was called in last February after it became clear that Capper-Neill's financial position had deteriorated. At the end of March share-



Capper resigns with most of his board

holders' funds stood at just £6m, including a property revaluation of £3.7m, while borrowings were £27.4m. Turnover fell from £108 to £83.4m over 10 years. The banks have undertaken to convert £14m of the overdraft into a £14m secured loan over 10 years. Capper-Neill has big construction interests in the Middle East and it is understood that disagreements over the company's title to contracts and to the amount from these contracts led to some of the extraordinary debts. CCC's major construction firm in the Middle East, and has won contracts in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. CCC will also have an option for 10 years to buy another £7.7m shares at par, and has agreed to make a £1.87m secured loan to Capper-Neill, bringing its total injection to £6m. The balance sheet will also be strengthened by the banks converting £7m of the existing overdraft into 7m redeemable preference shares of £1 each. These will not carry a dividend for the first two years but will have coupons of 8 per cent in the third and fourth years and 10 per cent in later years. Under the reconstruction, Consolidated Contractors, a company of Lebanese origin based in Athens, will pay £4.3m to buy 41.3m new shares in Capper-Neill at par. This will give them a 58.9 per cent share in Capper.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

BSR International, the audio, electronic and kitchenware group, is back in profit at the interim stage after its make-or-buy capital reconstruction this year. Mr Bill Wylie, chairman, who masterminded the £20m cash call which made the refinancing possible, yesterday reported pretax profits of £6.2m for the six months ending June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year and losses of £1.5m for 1982. Mr Wylie said at BSR's new corporate headquarters in Hongkong that he is looking for a further significant improvement in profits during the second half of the year. An indication of the board's confidence in progress is the promise to recommend payment of a final dividend of at least 1.5p this year. The refinancing helped cut short-term debts from £42m at

the end of December, 1982, to £2.8m today. Total group debt has fallen from £107m after the rights issue in March. The interim results include the £1m costs associated with the closure of a loss making Capetronics electronics factory in the US, and losses of £800,000 from BSR's British operations, which employ 4,000 people in the West Midlands. The British audio and kitchenware businesses should be trading in the black by the end of the year. An important part of the group's strategy in Britain is to switch production to new growth areas. Mr Wylie said that there will be further rationalization and divestment of activities within the group, but no redundancies are planned in Britain. BSR's shares rose by 10p to 178p.

Blue Circle dividend disappoints market

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, yesterday reported a small fall in pretax profits for the first half of this year. But Mr Gordon Marshall, deputy managing director, expects better results for the remainder of the year in Britain. Overseas, the group should benefit from its recent North American acquisition while Latin American countries are beginning to show marginal improvements after the rock bottom results in the second half of last year. Pretax profits fell from £51.5m to £48.2m. The group has adopted a new method of accounting for depreciation and the comparable figure has been restated as a result.

Blue Circle Industries Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £48.2m (£51.5m) Stated earnings 25.5p (31p) Turnover £40.8m (£37.6m) Net interim dividend 6p (same) Share price 43 1/2p down 1 1/2p Yield 6%

Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, has increased his holdings in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, from 3 per cent to 4.2 per cent, he confirmed in London yesterday. Mr Holmes a Court continues to make no comment on whether he wants to bid for Fleet in addition to his present offer for Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Proprietary. He said he is satisfied with his holding at present "but in 10 minutes time I may not be".

Surge in leading shares

New York, (Reuter) - The Wall Street stock market yesterday began higher, but turned mixed as blue chip issues outperformed secondary stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell nearly 19 points on Tuesday and Wednesday, was up about 2.23 points to 1186.46. In the broader market, declining issues were ahead of gainers about four to three. International Business Machines 1 1/8 to 115 3/8; General Electric fell 1/2 to 47; General Motors fell 1/8 to 66 3/4;

WALL STREET Dupont fell 1/8 to 52; Lockheed fell 3 3/8 to 103. General Dynamics fell 2 5/8 to 46 1/8; Eastman Kodak fell 1/8 to 30 and Minnesota Mining fell 1/8 to 79. NCR was 112 7/8, up 1 7/8; Raytheon at 47 1/2 was down 7/8; Mead Corporation was unchanged at 33; Colco at 34 5/8 was down 1 1/8; Exxon at 37 7/8 was unchanged; Allied Corporation at 50 was up 1/8;

Britoil tops forecasts

Britoil, the former state-owned oil group, yesterday reported profits for its first full half-year period that were higher than it forecast, but lower than the City had expected. Profits of £275m on sales of £569m in the six months to the end of June were ahead of the estimates made in the prospectus issued when the Government placed 51 per cent of the company on the stock market last November. Analysts had expected profits to be closer to £60m, however, with an interim dividend of 4p as opposed to the 3.5p announced yesterday. Britoil is still on target to hit its £484m profit forecast, and its

Britoil Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £275m (not applicable) Stated earnings 10.64p (n/a) Turnover £568 (n/a) Net interim dividend 3.5p (n/a) Share price 238p

Britain wins larger share of £1bn nuclear work

Britain has won a larger share of £1bn nuclear work from the CEGB. Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the CEGB, said yesterday: "In recent weeks we have made substantial progress in discussions with potential suppliers of components. We are now confident that the majority, both in number and value, can be supplied by British manufacturers. It is not possible to be precise, but as a result we now

Sizewell victory for industry

British industry has responded to a challenge from the nuclear power programme to take orders worth millions of pounds from foreign companies which were originally in line to supply equipment for the Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk. After talks with the Central Electricity Generating Board, British suppliers have met specification requirements which means that apart from several million pounds worth of specialized equipment most of the overall estimated cost of £1,147m will be spent in Britain. Originally 10 per cent of the contract had been earmarked to be met by overseas suppliers. Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the CEGB, said yesterday: "In recent weeks we have made substantial progress in discussions with potential suppliers of components. We are now confident that the majority, both in number and value, can be supplied by British manufacturers. It is not possible to be precise, but as a result we now



Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the CEGB, says British suppliers have met specification requirements

supply Sizewell with the main forgings because of the extensive qualification tests required for components for pressurized water reactors. The CEGB is, however, considering providing research funds to enable Sheffield Forgemasters to meet future orders if the PWR programme goes ahead after the public inquiry into the Sizewell project. In the coming year the CEGB will reduce its purchases of coal from the Coal Board and will pay a price slightly below 3 per cent above present contracts. Traditionally the electricity industry, the NCB's biggest customer, accepts annual price rises fixed at the inflation rate, at present 4.2 per cent. It also agrees to guarantee the price paid for the first 60 million tonnes it buys and pays a different rate for consumption above that level. In future the level taken at guaranteed prices will be lower. The new contracts are likely to be signed next week and will play an important role in talks about to start between the electricity supply industry and its main industrial customers on annual bulk supply contracts.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. Luxembourg

Announcement to Shareholders Approval was given at the General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. ("TDBH") held on August 25, 1983 for all items on the agenda, including a distribution - for each 100 TDBH shares outstanding - of a dividend consisting of US\$ 800 in cash, 27\* American Express Company ("Amexco") common shares, and 10 warrants to purchase 20\* Amexco common shares at US\$ 27.50 per share. The following should be considered by shareholders who have TDBH shares in bearer form: 1. As from the distribution date (August 29, 1983) each shareholder should present coupons 12, 13 and 14 of his TDBH shares either directly to one of the paying agents mentioned herebelow, or request his own bank to do so on his behalf. Coupons 12 will be exchanged for cash in US\$, coupons 13 for Amexco common shares, and coupons 14 for Amexco warrants. 2. Upon presentation of coupons 13 and 14 the paying agents will acknowledge to the shareholder his right to the appropriate number of shares and warrants, and, in accordance with his instructions, have the certificates made out, registered, and delivered. 3. There will be no delivery of fractional shares or warrants. Fractional rights will be paid in cash at the market value of the shares and warrants as of the date of presentation of the coupons. The distribution will continue until October 28, 1983. After October 28, 1983, the Company will sell any shares and warrants of American Express Company not distributed due to non-presentation of coupons 13 and 14, and will hold the US dollar proceeds of such sale for any payment against future presentation of coupons 13 and 14. Presentation of coupons 12, 13 and 14 as outlined hereabove should be made to any of the paying agents listed below: Manufacturers Hanover Limited, 8 Princes Street, London EC2P 2EN Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg Manufacturers Hanover Bank Belgium, 13, rue de Ligne, 1000 Brussels Manufacturers Hanover Banque Nordique, 20 rue de la Ville-Évêque, 75008 Paris Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 51/53, Frankfurt Trade Development Bank, 30 Monument Street, London EC3R 8LH Trade Development Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 34 avenue de la Porte-Neuve, Luxembourg \*calculated after the effect of the 3 for 2 stock split of 10th August 1983

City Editor's Comment

Cash flow problems on a massive scale

Brazil's original multi-billion dollar rescue package fell apart because it was too small and Brazil was unable to meet conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Bankers are now working on the second phase. But even if events proceed smoothly in the next few months, it is far from clear who is going to do the bailing out this time. The immediate problem is Brazil's worsening liquidity crisis. This led Brazil to suspend payments on official debts - about one-tenth of the \$60bn total - after Professor Antonio De Lima Neto planning minister flew to France to approach the Paris Club of Western government lenders. But arrears to banks are now put at £1.3bn and rising and interest payments are said to be 53 days overdue. This is dangerously close to the 60 days which would force American banks to classify these loans as non-performing for all to see. To reduce arrears, bankers look likely to unblock the rest of the \$2.9bn jumbo loan suspended when Brazil fell foul of IMF conditions. So far £1.6bn has been released but including a drawing due next month, \$800m is now being withheld. Interest payments on its huge debts are crippling Brazil and any amount of internal economic adjustment is not going to reduce that burden. Barring another historic loosening of the monetary reins by the Federal Reserve to bring down interest rates, along the lines of its action last summer when Mexico was teetering on the brink, both banks and governments may be forced to consider much more painful and radical measures. Banks may have to consider such taboo options as rescheduling interest or trading it in the form of trade credits. Governments, for their part, will have to recognize that the banks cannot do it all on their own. And if this lends greater urgency to the search for long-term solutions to the debt crisis, so much the better.



سكوت الأمل

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

# How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

## BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Media, "broad" rate card)

	1981			1982		
	Spend	Rank	%TV	Spend	Rank	%TV
Hallifax	4625	2	53	6808	1	65
Abbey National	4574	1	31	5236	2	25
Leeds Permanent	3579	3	44	4850	3	69
Bradford & Bingley	2504	6	35	4431	4	30
Nationwide	2393	5	48	3735	5	52
Anglia	1614	7	57	2763	6	65
Woolwich	2065	4	70	2480	7	76
Leicester	775	9	-	1795	8	57
Alliance	499	12	-	1888	9	89
Provincial	1190	8	36	1848	10	50



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

Of all the areas of business which have discovered marketing in recent years, few have embraced it with more enthusiasm than the building societies.

Heavy television advertising campaigns have after a wave of "new products" in the form of higher-interest accounts aimed at different groups of savers, and the use of popular children's characters such as Mickey Mouse and Paddington Bear all testify to the eagerness with which the hitherto staid and slow societies have taken on board the lessons of the cornflake and soap powder companies.

Despite recent problems, the change of approach and huge increase in marketing expenditure (£44m on advertising last year, compared with £4m ten years ago) seems at first sight to have been amply justified. Last year the building societies recorded the highest net receipts in their history and all but one of the top ten societies, which tend to be the biggest spenders, increased their assets by 17 per cent or more.

"Perhaps that suggests that societies' marketing strategies were highly successful," says one building society executive. Mr Richard Lacy, and most societies might agree. "I believe that is a very naive view of our industry's performance," he adds.

"Many societies seem to me to have spent much of the last two years raising extra funds at the highest cost, advertising premium-rate accounts and transferring a large volume of profitable share account funds. This, to me, is not carefully planned marketing - it is the strategy of growth at all costs."

Mr Lacy is not against building societies spending heavily on advertising and marketing. Indeed, as general manager in charge of marketing at the Leicester Building Society, he has spent as much as most on television commercials and launch of new schemes, most notably the Leicestercard and a tie-up with National Girobank that has given the society 20,000 new Post Office outlets. The Leicester was the 10th biggest society last year, with assets of £2,060m.

His concern is that most societies have lost sight of the need for profitability in the face of growth and market share. In this, they are no different from some consumer marketing

companies. But what makes building societies a special case is the fact that they are not in business to make a profit. The temptation, therefore, to spend heavily - on image-building advertising and premium interest rates to savers - is unchecked by normal considerations of cost efficiency.

"Many societies have competed on price, and price alone, no matter what the cost," says Mr Lacy. "In both the short and, more importantly, longer term, most societies' cost of funds - the average rate they pay to all their investors - has risen significantly."

"Almost the only reaction to the challenge we have faced for personal savings has been to pay more to investors," often squeezing lending margins.

Even though building societies do not need to make a profit, Mr Lacy points out, they must still provide a margin between investors' and borrowers' rates which, after expenses and taxation, is sufficient to maintain adequate reserves. "What we are talking about is commercial sense and social responsibility - the ability to provide a mortgage at least cost, and the way to do this is to raise investment at least cost."

The Leicester's marketing strategy over the past two years has been highly successful in these terms. For though the Leicester increased its assets by only 13.5 per cent last year, compared with the 17 per cent and more growth of the other top societies, it topped the league in terms of raising its funds at the lowest cost.

"The Leicester's average cost of funds was lower than all the others in the top ten last year and in 1983, we have reduced that cost even further," says Mr Lacy. This has been achieved by

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Girobank.

The Leicestercard was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wighi Collins Rutherford Scott.

According to Mr Robin Wight, the agency chairman: "Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and other societies, so we developed the Leicestercard as a 'separator', to distinguish

The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning the Leicester as the "foremost" - began. "In the space of 10 months, we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 and by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued.

Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deposits faster last year by their cruder method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 1 1/2 per cent differential over basic share rates from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

# DEREK CROUCH

## Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

	1983 First six months £'000's	1982 First six months £'000's	Year £'000's
Turnover	28,825	28,789	29,606
Earnings before Tax and Interest	857	1,348	2,613
Interest Payable	680	834	1,739
Earnings before Tax	177	414	874
Earnings after all Charges and Taxation	285	210	(309)
Dividends	203	203	650
Earnings per Share	2.29p	1.68p	6.5p

Opencast mining in the U.K. is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc., the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after interest.

Derek Crouch has now taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 16th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who performed Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978.

The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 23 million tons of coal immediately available for strip mining. A £1.75m. washing plant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of quality Power Inc. has maintained its share of a highly competitive market.

The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A. as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to take advantage of future opportunities and the minority partners were unable to go along this road as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc. to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefits in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development areas, reducing total reliance on work in the public sector. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed.

As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry.

The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.63p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

### DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone: Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32129

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Change at Midland

Midland Bank: Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer; Thomas Cook, is to be assistant general manager (financing operations).

The British Overseas and Commonwealth Banks' Association: Mr Peter Weller, general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

Smn Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Coward has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. L. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Enakilda Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the U.K. He will be based in London.

WARRINGTON BROS BANK SERVICES LTD., 24-41 Broad St., St. Helens, Merseyside, Tel. 051 5224 747/15	75.00
Agency Money Market Trust	75.00
BANK OF AMERICA	106.11
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FRANCO	75.00
HSBC	75.00
INDIA	75.00
JP MORGAN	75.00
LABOR BANK	75.00
PARIS	75.00
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	75.00
SAUDI	75.00
SPAIN	75.00
SWITZERLAND	75.00
UNITED STATES	75.00

### Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	10 1/4 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

† Mortgage/Overnight rates.  
\* 7 day deposits on basis of notice £10,000, 6% £25,000 up to £250,000, 7% £250,000 and over, 8%.



### SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

	First Six Months (Unaudited)	
	1983 £m	1982 £m
Turnover	121.1	102.2
Operating Profit	8.6	3.0
Profit before Taxation	6.2	(1.8)
Profit after Taxation	4.1	(2.0)
Earnings per Share	3.0p	(1.7)p

### HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
  - Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
  - Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
  - Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
  - Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
  - Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
  - Restoration of Interim Dividend
  - Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong
- Operating Profit increased to 7% of Sales
  - Pretax profit improved by £8.0m. over comparable period in 1982
  - Astec International continues strong growth with substantial increases in both turnover and profits
  - Net Short Term debt reduced from £42.0m. at end of 1982 to £2.8m.
  - Half Year Interest Cost reduced from £4.6m. to £2.4m.
  - Operating profit interest cover raised from 0.7 to 3.6 times
  - Shareholders funds increased from £27.6m. at 31 December, 1982 to £55.1m.
  - Gearing reduced from 172% to 48%
  - Joint venture in California set up to exploit micro wafer media for computer mass storage systems
  - Acquisition of electronics royalty agreement completed
  - New logo identifies group's continuing diversification into High Technology Electronics
  - 0.5p on the Ordinary Shares has been declared (1982 Nil)
  - Trustee status maintained
  - Dividends from Hong Kong subsidiaries can now be received free of further tax charge

### BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full interim report, please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wollaton, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4QG, England

# Britoil's first interim results - a successful period

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.83 £ million	Pro Forma Year ended 31.12.82 £ million
Turnover	568.8	1,088.0
Operating profit	287.2	544.9
Net Interest payable	(12.4)	(30.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	274.8	514.3
Taxation		
Supplementary petroleum duty	-	(162.8)
Petroleum revenue tax	(138.1)	(152.1)
Corporation tax	(85.5)	(96.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item	53.2	102.6
Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses)	-	(3.6)
Profit for the financial period	53.2	99.0
Dividends payable	(16.5)	(18.8)
Amount set aside to reserves	36.7	80.2
Earnings per share	10.64p	n/a
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	276.5	577.3
Additions to fixed assets	153.9	316.3

**Review of Activities**  
Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 148,000 barrels of oil per day. During the period, the Company re-affirmed its position as the most active explorer on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Of the 35 exploration wells drilled in the period, Britoil was involved in 12 of them - 5 as operator and 7 as a venture partner.

Also during the first six months, an application was made to the Government to develop the North Sea's first condensate field, North Brae, in which Britoil has a 20% interest. In addition, the Board agreed to support an application to develop the Victor gas field in which Britoil has a 25% interest.

In the International arena, the Company recently formed, as operator, a bidding group which will apply for Danish acreage later this year. Also, an agreement was concluded which gives Britoil its first venture in the United States and which provides access to a range of on-shore exploration and development acreage. As a result, the Company now has acreage in five overseas countries. In one of these areas, Dubai, development work commenced on the first phase of the Margham condensate field in which Britoil has a one-third interest.

**Results**  
Operating profit for the six months to 30 June 1983 amounted to £287.2 million. The turnover of £568.8 million reflects an average daily oil production of 147,900 barrels (146,800 in 1982) whilst the deterioration in the dollar, sterling exchange rate, which more than compensated for the fall in the dollar oil price early in 1983, raised the average sterling realisation per barrel to £19.83 (£19.13 in 1982).

**Dividends**  
As indicated at the time of the Offer for Sale, the Directors intend to pay an interim dividend of 3.3p per share. Payment will be made on 14 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 15 September 1983.

For a copy of the full interim report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary, Britoil PLC, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5LJ. Existing shareholders will receive the Report shortly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_













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BRITANNY BARGAINS
27 AUG/SEPT/OCT
UP TO £160 OFF!
Self catering and villa holiday.

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Join us at Valinco, our hotel run as a house party by the waters edge.

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Garage for sale in Knightsbridge.

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RENTALS
GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS
PARLIAMENT HILL, Overlooking the Heath and beyond the garden level.

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THE FIRST Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Travel Agents will be held at the Grosvenor Hotel.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
World Leaders in Cancer Research
Helping cancer patients at our hospitals.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER
Give to the Cancer Research Campaign and help to fund a real breakthrough in cancer research.

BIRTHS
On August 23, at St. Thomas' Hospital, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. Robert...

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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
copy, alteration and cancellation deadlines
Monday 29th: as usual
Tuesday 30th: deadlines Friday 26th 3.30
Wednesday 31st: deadlines Friday 26th 3.30
Thursday 1st: as usual
The offices will be closed from 1pm on Saturday 27th until 9am Tuesday 30th

FOR SALE
RESISTA CARPETS SUMMER SALE NOW ON
Mention Resista £2.99 sq yd. Wool Mix Berberes \$4.79 sq yd. 100% Wool Viscose \$1.99 sq yd. All exclusive of VAT. Free many other great reductions. Tel: 01-267 4455. 257/7 New Kings Rd, Parsons Green, SW6 7JL 2588. 182 Upper Richmond Rd West, SW14 8TB 2889. 207 Haverstock Hill, NW3 7DA 0139.

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Steel gives an ultimatum on party manifesto

By Our Political Staff

Mr David Steel has made clear to his fellow MPs that should he be stripped of authority over the contents of the Liberal Party election manifesto he would find it impossible to continue as leader of the party.

Alliance 'real threat'

Continued from page 1 opposition because it was the other party to beat. I thought she was trying to cling to Labour because she was sure she could always beat them.



Spectacular present-day photographs show the volcano between Java and Sumatra is still active a century after it erupted killing 36,000 people. The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away and meteorological effects could be seen in Britain.

Detained leaders moved out of Karachi Zia may open talks with parties

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

Speculation was rife in Karachi last night that the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq has decided to open talks with the political parties about the future of the country's democracy.

The statement concludes: "Arise, arise our brother in Punjab. Arise and join the caravan of the people. Arise, arise and free your imprisoned brethren. Arise, arise and free yourselves from the chains of exploitation and repression."

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

Continued from page 1 France would not interfere directly in the civil war between President Habré and Mr Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the Libyan-backed rebels. It had nothing against Mr Oueddei except that in inviting the Libyans to intervene, he has provoked the internationalization of the conflict.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions Wish you were here - Nottingham artists at the seaside, Castle Museum, Nottingham, Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45. (Closes Sept 25).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,218

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating starting positions for the clues.

ACROSS 1 Was it form-filling that sent him mad? (5,4). 2 But grandia was no breaker of tables (5). 3 Act revised to include nude entertainment (7). 4 Young devil pops in to beat one of the drums (7). 5 What a new school needs to get to be progressive? (5).

Food prices

Supplies of fresh berries seem to have been unaffected by the EEC dispute over North Sea quotas and certain countries, including Britain. The West of Scotland fishery has filled the gap, and at 60p to 70p a pound, herring is one of the week's best buys.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and USA.

Warning off

Have you warned your children lately not to go with strangers? The Central Office of Information has issued a timely memorandum on the subject. It emphasizes that they should never accept sweets or go off anywhere with strangers, no matter how kind the person may appear to be.

New transmitter

Channel 4 will increase its potential viewing figures in the South-East area by 300,000 from today when the Darvel television transmitting station opens.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, statesman. Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph-Nicolas Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1740; Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, scientist, Paris, 1743; Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria, Coburg, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedmouth, novelist and government general, 1935-40; Canada, Perth, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire, poet, Paris, 1890; Deaths: William James, philosopher and psychologist, Chocoma, New Haven, New York, 1910; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1921; The Romans led by Julius Caesar invaded Britain 55BC; Edward III defeated the French at Crecy, 1346.

Roads

London and South-east A406: Dull on Aylesbury Road (North Circular Road) Edmonton, A23: Delays on Brighton road near Hockstead show ground. A4, A33, A329: Heavy traffic in Reading town centre for rock festival.

The papers

The Harare Herald, the state-owned Zimbabwe daily, said that the talks between Dr Pavez de la Cruz, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and South African officials on the future of Namibia was "an indication of how seriously the world today views the situation."

Lighting-up time

London 8.20 pm to 5.34 am. Bristol 8.41 pm to 5.44 am. Edinburgh 8.54 pm to 5.38 am. Manchester 8.20 pm to 5.38 am. Newcastle 8.50 pm to 5.38 am.

Top films

Top box-office films in London: 1 Octopus, 2 Return of the Jedi, 3 Superman II, 4 Monty Python's The Meaning of Life, 5 Flashdance, 6 Outrage, 7 The Untouchables, 8 The Outsiders, 9 10 Heat and Dust, 11 The Top Five in the provinces: 1 Octopus, 2 Superman II, 3 Educating Rita, 4 Heat and Dust, 5 First Blood.

Zoo guide

The Zoological Society of London has published a handsome new guide to the London Zoo at Regent's Park. The 50-page booklet is available from the Retail Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, or at the zoo. 75p (plus 35p p. & p.).

Weather

N and NW Scotland will be cloudy with some outbreaks of drizzle, and later in the day more widespread and persistent rain will spread from the W.

Around Britain

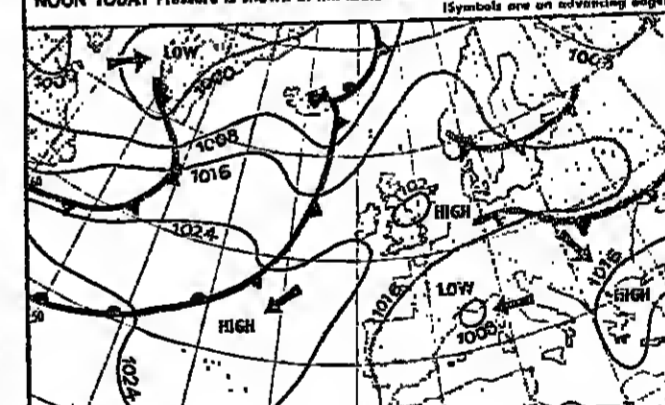
Table showing weather forecasts for various locations in Britain including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, and others.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, F. London 16, 61; Manchester 15, 59; Birmingham 14, 57; Glasgow 13, 55; Cardiff 12, 54; Belfast 11, 52.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Worthing, 27C (81F). Lowest night temp: Lowest, 12C (54F). Highest rainfall: Lowest, 12.1 mm (0.48 in). Lowest wind speed: Lowest, 0.1 m/s (0.2 mph).



High tides table showing tide measurements in meters for various locations including London Bridge, Avonmouth, Southampton, and others.

Around Britain weather table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, and min temperatures.

Abroad weather table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, and min temperatures.

مكتبات الامم المتحدة